

MAGAZINE
THAT SHAPED
THE CENTURY
A celebration of 75
years of Time
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WE'RE ALL
CHEAPSKATES
NOW
Even the royals can't
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DAVID BAILEY
BACK IN THE
FRAME
...and still pulling
the birds
THE EYE

WORLD'S BEST
COMPUTER
GAMES
...and the wacky
minds behind them
NETWORK, with pages of jobs

INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 3 March 1998 45p No 3,548

Second book on China is blocked

By Rob Brown and
Steve Crawshaw

HARPERCOLLINS - already beset by an authors' revolt after dumping a book by Chris Patten - faces further turmoil after putting on ice a second book which contains criticisms of the Chinese regime.

Blocking of the book is fresh evidence that Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corporation owns HarperCollins, will not allow anything to be published which harms his commercial interests in China.

The book under threat marks the 40th anniversary of the human rights pressure group Amnesty International. The synopsis includes a chapter on Peking's deplorable human rights record to be written by the Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng.

Mr Wei, 47, is the leading voice of opposition to the regime in Peking. A former electrician at Peking zoo, he spent 16 years behind bars between his arrest in 1979 and his expulsion from China last year, after writing an article which criticised the Chinese leader, the late Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Wei, who now lives in the United States, has been scathing about the West's failure to speak out more loudly in London in January, he told the *Independent*: "Because of business they want to keep a distance from me. I think it's a pity." His chapter had started to unnerve HarperCollins's senior editorial director in London, Richard Johnson, who had previously been enthusiastic about the proposal from a freelance journalist, Jonathan Power.

The *Independent* has learned that Mr Johnson sought guidance yesterday from HarperCollins's chairman and publisher Eddie Bell, and was instructed not to offer any advance to Mr Power until Mr Murdoch has clarified his position on the Communist regime in Peking.

Mr Power, who is based in Oxford, has already written a book marking the 30th anniversary of Amnesty International. "Nobody inside the show [HarperCollins] is in any doubt about what this whole thing is about," he said.

yesterday. "I'm surprised he [Mr Murdoch] even allowed Chris Patten's book to be commissioned. It was presumably a sin of omission by someone in the HarperCollins's chain of command."

If his book is also dumped, Mr Power won't be disappointed. He has been thinking of withdrawing his synopsis in solidarity with those leading HarperCollins authors who have revolted in protest against the way Mr Patten has been treated. "I only went to HarperCollins because it is a very big publishing firm which has the marketing might and distribution network to reach the 300,000 Amnesty members in America," he explained, adding: "To effectively kill a book [Chris Patten's *East and West*] which, by all accounts, is very good is bow-towing to the Chinese authorities in the most crude and elemental level."

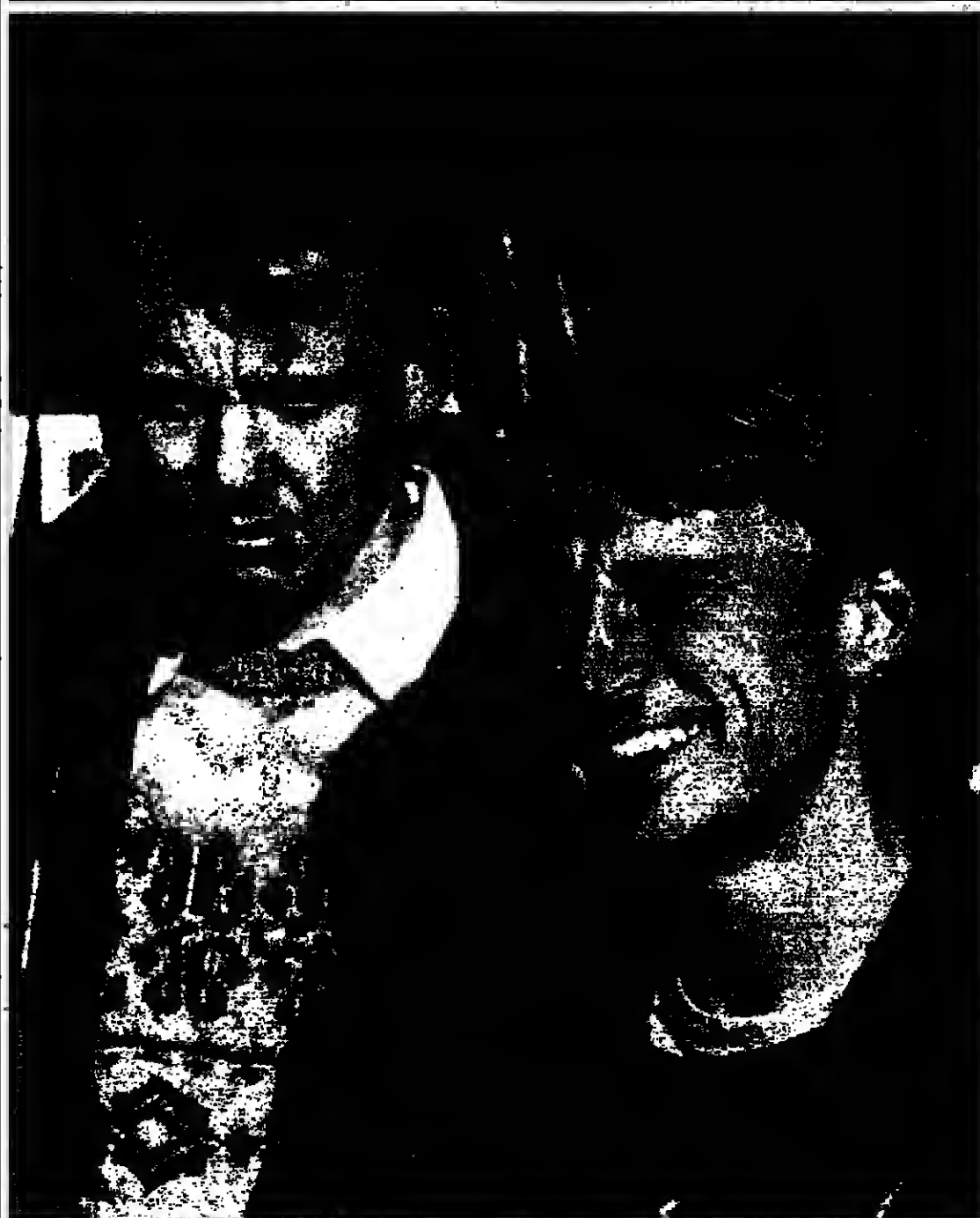
If that is what he is about, Rupert Murdoch will almost certainly put a stop to plans by Mr Power to include a chapter in his book by Wei Jingsheng. As China's leading dissident, he is even more of a thorn in the flesh of the Communist regime in Peking than the former Hong Kong governor.

Stuart Proffitt, the former senior editor at HarperCollins whose departure from the company last week originally sparked the Murdoch controversy, last night declined to comment on the latest developments. "I am legally constrained from commenting on this," he said. However, he confirmed he was taking HarperCollins to an industrial tribunal and said he expected the hearing to start within the next three to six months.

Mr Wei was expelled from his homeland in December after serving 18 years in a succession of prisons and forced labour camps, where he was repeatedly tortured and confined in freezing cells. Since his exile began three months ago, he has visited Mr Patten in London. He also had a brief meeting with Derek Fatchett, the junior minister at the Foreign Office who handles Chinese affairs. He had hoped to meet with the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, but the minister "had a full appointment book".

Sky snubbed, page 4

The Full Monty's haves and have nots ...



The loser: Steve Huison (left) in a scene from *The Full Monty* with Robert Carlyle. Photograph: Nicola Kurcz

Star earned only £13,000 from £50m blockbuster

By Andrew Buncombe

OH HOW life laughs at us. It's all very well to star in the biggest British box-office hit of all time, but it's apparently still very important to read the small print.

Robert Carlyle, the actor who played the leader of the strippers in the record-breaking film *The Full Monty*, earned about £1.8m last year - making him the seventh highest earning British actor. Meanwhile, his fellow "stripper" Steve Huison received only £13,500 for getting his kit off and grows his own vegetables on a Yorkshire allotment to save cash.

Huison, who played loser Lomper in the hit comedy, said yesterday at the

launch of the video of the film, that filmmakers assumed the stars had made a fortune out of the movie. While it had taken almost £50m in the United Kingdom alone, Huison said he had received only £13,500.

Yesterday he said his latest project was "the allotment". "That's not a film, it's a piece of land. It's that time of the year you've got to break up the soil and get your potatoes in."

"It's not about gardening it's about growing your own veg and saving money, you know. I'd be a fool if I didn't try to save money."

"Let me get it right - we haven't got a fortune out of it. We got the basic Equity weekly rate for it and that was

all we had - £1,500 a week it works out at for nine weeks."

He said he had heard rumours about bonus payments following the massive success of the film, but so far he had seen no more cash.

"I don't believe anything until I see it in my hand," he said.

However, in the best of dramatic tradition, Huison, who lives in Shipley, West Yorkshire, said he was not bitter. "I've had a good time over the past six months, I've gone on a lot of free trips and I've met a lot of interesting people."

Huison said he was hoping to go to Los Angeles for Oscars night on 23 March but it would depend on whether he was working.

Diana wanted her mother to help raise royal princes

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THIS original will ran to only six pages and was signed simply "Diana" in her familiar rounded hand. The amended version, drawn up after her death, runs to 35 pages and - devoid of signatures - seems a curiously impersonal document.

The Princess left a net fortune of almost £13m after death duties of more than £8.5m were paid, according to the will, which was published yesterday.

Her sons, Princes William and Harry, inherit the bulk of her estate - valued at £21,468,352 before death duties - which is to be held in trust until they are 25.

Other beneficiaries, who were not in the original will, include her butler, Paul Burrell, whom the Princess referred to as "my rock" and who receives £50,000, while her 17 godchildren will each receive an object or painting from her personal belongings. Martyn Gower, senior partner of Lawrence Graham, the lawyers acting for the executors of the Princess's estate, said: "They are personal gifts, chosen by the executors in the knowledge that they had great value in the eyes of Diana and would therefore be of value to her godchildren."

The will, written in June 1993 as the relationship between Charles and Diana turned decidedly sour, also insists that her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, be consulted over the "education and welfare" of the two princes.



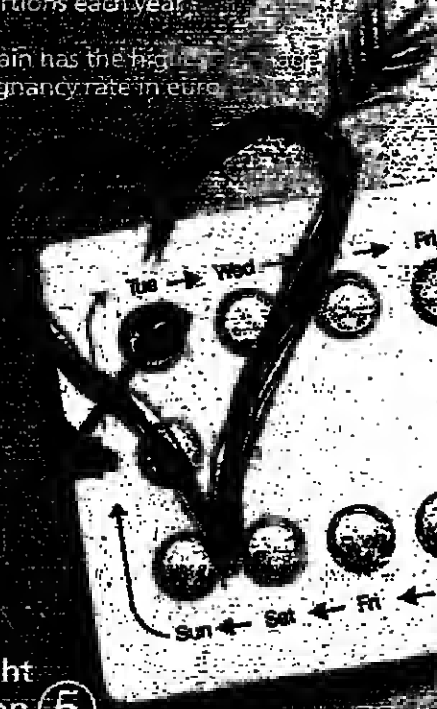
Diana: Left fortune of £13m after death duties were paid

It is the first time a royal will has been made public and its contents were revealed at the request of her family. Until her death, only the full value of an estate belonging to a member of the Royal Family was revealed. All details of personal bequests and beneficiaries remained private. Mr Gower said: "It was the decision of the family that the will should be made public. They felt it would be appropriate in view of the intense public interest surrounding the Princess." Diana's estate comprised stocks and shares, jewellery, cash - mainly from her £17m divorce settlement - dresses and other belongings at Kensington Palace, her London home.

Details of the original will, drawn up in June 1993 following her separation from Prince Charles, were changed by a variation order granted through the courts on 19 December last year. Godchildren's gifts, page 3

5 facts about teenage sex and the pill

- 1 the number of girls registered at Genit Clinic has tripled in the last five years
- 2 half of all girls in clinics are advised to take the pill
- 3 37% of 16-17 year olds have used the morning-after pill
- 4 around 4,000 underage girls have abortions each year
- 5 Britain has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Europe



tonight
8:30pm on 5

PEOPLE LIFE NEWS

Jail for drug granny of Tunbridge Wells

By Andrew Buncombe

A GRANDMOTHER who ran a multi-million-pound drugs empire that stretched across southern England was jailed for 15 years yesterday.

Evelyn Fleckney, a self-styled drugs baroness, operated her trade in ecstasy, cocaine and cannabis from a four-bedroom house in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

She described herself as the "chairman of the board" and once boasted: "There are not many drug dealers like me. Go and find another bird that can do what I get."

The South East Regional

Crime Squad agreed. A spokeswoman said: "She was certainly the first drugs baroness to be convicted in our area and is possibly the first in the country."

Southwark Crown Court in London heard that to minimise the risk of detection Fleckney, 41, never handled the drugs herself, always ensured they were stashed in "isolated" country hideaways and dealt with her minions with a "rod of iron". Police believe she learnt her trade from high league underworld figures.

Before her arrest, police had watched her for months, and her every word was recorded. Fleckney, who has two chil-



Evelyn Fleckney: Ruled her empire with 'a rod of iron'

dren, was convicted of conspiracy to supply ecstasy, cocaine and cannabis.

Her former boyfriend, James Smith, 32, also of Tunbridge Wells, was found guilty of conspiring to supply ecstasy and cannabis and possessing amphetamine sulphate with intent to supply. He was jailed for 12 years.

Fayed arrested in safety-box inquiry

By Ian Burrell

MOHAMED Al-Fayed was arrested yesterday over allegations by his great rival Tiny Rowland that the Harrods owner tampered with his safe deposit box at the Knightsbridge store.

Mr Fayed, who was arrested after he went voluntarily to a London police station, was released on police bail after being questioned over allegations of theft of documents, tapes and gems and criminal damage to the box.

The Harrods owner, who was accompanied by his solicitors, denies the allegations and was said to want to bring the

matter to a "speedy conclusion".

The allegations first emerged last October when former trade minister Neil Hamilton was giving evidence to the Commons Standards and Privileges committee in the aftermath of the cash-for-questions scandal.

Mr Hamilton alleged that when Mr Fayed discovered that his business rival owned a Harrods deposit box he became "excited" and hatched a plan to find out what was inside.

Mr Hamilton claimed that Mr Rowland's documents were copied and a locksmith was paid off with white envelopes stuffed with £50 notes.

Today's news

Glasgow vice terror

THE brutal killing of a prostitute in the early hours of Saturday morning has left Glasgow's 700 street vice girls in fear, but still working to feed their heroin habits. Page 5

NHS bonuses

ACTION to clean up the merit award system, which gives NHS consultants bonuses of over £50,000 a year will be announced after clear evidence of racial discrimination against doctors from ethnic minorities. Page 2



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 • FULL CONTENTS, P2

Girls' boxing match axed

A BOXING match between two 13-year-old girls was understood last night to have been called off. The bout was due to take place tonight at Valentino's nightclub in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

Amateur Boxing Association spokesman David Prior said: "At this moment I understand the bout is off. I cannot confirm the reasons for this at this stage."

This is the second time the match - between Andrea Prime from Leicester and Emma Brammer from Stoke - has been postponed amid adverse publicity.

No new CJD variant cases

NO NEW cases of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (v-CJD), also called "human BSE", have been detected by the Government's monitoring unit in Edinburgh, according to figures published yesterday. The monthly report from the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh reveals that last year a total of 10 people died from the disease, reckoned to be caused by eating BSE-infected food. That is the same number as in 1996.

Homes protest

MORE than 30 activists occupied the London headquarters of the House Builders' Federation yesterday calling for an end to house-building on greenfield sites.

The activists, who are members of Action for Social Housing, want a switch in emphasis to building homes for low-income groups in urban areas, and pledged more direct action against major UK housebuilding firms.

Too few takers

ONLY half the people who need influenza vaccinations are actually getting them, doctors warned yesterday.

The claim, by the Association for Influenza Monitoring and Surveillance, comes amid worries about a major outbreak of the common illness, which kills up to 4,000 people in Britain each year.

Show delayed

THE start of the new *Father Ted* comedy series was put back a week by Channel 4 chiefs last night after the sudden death of its star Dermot Morgan, 45. He collapsed at his London home on Saturday as he celebrated the end of filming with family and friends.

Bullet girl saved by UK flees new peril

An orphan flown to Britain for treatment after a bullet lodged in her head was in danger again yesterday as she fled fighting in her home town in Sierra Leone.

Tennah Cole, now eight, is one of 60 children who fled a British-run orphanage as troops from the recently deposed junta went on the rampage. She was flown to Britain in 1996 after an appeal raised money for an operation to remove the stray AK-47 bullet lodged behind her right eye. It was a success and she returned to Sierra Leone, where she was cared for in the Hope and Homes for Children orphanage in Makeni, 130 miles from the capital, Freetown. The Nigerian-led Ecomog force ousted Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma's junta last month but has not liberated Makeni. Troops supporting the military regime, which deposed elected President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in May, have run amok in the town.



New orphans: Tennah Cole, treated successfully in Britain after being hit by a stray bullet, is now on the run in Sierra Leone from rampaging troops

Clean-up for NHS bonus system

By Colin Brown and Jeremy Laurence

Action to clean up the merit award system which gives high-ranking NHS consultants bonuses of over £50,000 a year will be announced today by the Health Minister, Alan Milburn, after evidence of racial discrimination against doctors from ethnic minorities. Ministers believe the system has become an "old-boys' network".

Those who receive the highest awards, of £53,645, include Lord McColl, a Tory spokesman

in the Lords on the NHS. Critics say the awards given by peer review among consultants are for academic merit but they should be reformed to reflect commitment to the NHS.

Consultants, especially surgeons, hold the key to cutting waiting lists and ministers are known to be unhappy with arrangements for rewarding them. The cross-government comprehensive spending review is understood to be focussing on consultant workload because of concern that some are doing too little.

Many top consultants with awards have thriving private practices and other commitments which take them away from the NHS.

The latest awards, to be announced today, show for the first time an ethnic breakdown of those receiving the bonuses. The figures reveal that 13.9 per cent of NHS consultants are from ethnic minorities but only 6.2 per cent hold an award. Mr Milburn will say this is "unacceptable" and will welcome action being taken by the Advisory Committee on Distinction

Awards on three fronts: members of the ethnic minorities are to be appointed to the regional committees which make the recommendations for bonuses for consultants; there will be better ethnic monitoring of nominations for award-holders; and the ACDA is promising to work more closely with the Commission for Racial Equality. Earlier protests about sex discrimination led to a slight increase in the number of women consultants gaining awards, but the attack on the failure properly to reward mem-

bers of ethnic minorities could be the lever for more reforms of a system many believe is discredited. Sam Everington, a former Labour adviser and a member of the BMA council, said the figures confirmed his own survey showing racial discrimination in the awards. "It is an old-boy network. You make friends with those on the committee and it is done by a nod and a wink. They say it is done by 'taking soundings'."

Dr Everington, a GP, said the waiting list could be reduced by paying NHS consultants to

carry out more operations, if the system was geared to those working in the NHS rather than private practice. The awards are given "solely on grounds of merit but... they are not intended - nor should they be seen - as a measure of the quality of treatment afforded to individual patients." This curious statement is intended to prevent their being used to construct league tables of the best doctors. Ministerial sources stressed last night that Mr Milburn is not seeking to scrap the system.

Judge in sexual harassment case stands down

By Kathy Marks

A PART-TIME judge who was found to have sexually harassed a pupil barrister has voluntarily stood down from the bench pending the result of a possible appeal against the ruling.

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks, 46, a barrister who sits as a Crown Court recorder, has not yet stated whether he intends to

lodge an appeal. If he fails to do so within 21 days of last week's hearing, or if the result goes against him, his name will be struck off the list of barristers appointed to sit as part-time recorders.

In the meantime, according to the Lord Chancellor's department yesterday, he has agreed not to sit on the bench until the matter is resolved.

Mr Sutton-Mattocks, who was appointed a recorder in 1996, was fined £500 by a Bar Council disciplinary tribunal for persistently harassing Claire Kavanagh, 25, a pupil at his chambers in central London. Another female pupil is also thought to have complained about him.

Ms Kavanagh is believed to be the first pupil to make a formal allegation of sexual ha-

rassment against a barrister since a new system to deal with such complaints was introduced by the Bar.

In 1995, a Bar Council working party concluded that some barristers indulge in "disgraceful" behaviour towards the pupils whose training they supervise.

Whatever happens to Mr Sutton-Mattocks' career on the

bench, he remains free to practise as a barrister. The Bar Council, the professional body for England and Wales, has the power to disbar or suspend barristers who breach its disciplinary code. But a spokesman said yesterday that if the appeal was unsuccessful in this case, the £500 fine would stand as the penalty.

Mr Sutton-Mattocks' part-

time post requires him to sit for at least four weeks a year, although most recorders spend much more time than that on the bench.

Mr Sutton-Mattocks, who is married and practises mainly as a criminal barrister, was not available for comment at his chambers yesterday. His clerk said it was believed that he might be abroad.

Search for gold in Devon hills

A COMPANY hoping to start England's first commercial gold mine will resume exploratory drilling today at a secret location, it was announced yesterday.

Five 100-metre-deep holes will be sunk by Credition Minerals in the mid Devon countryside at 150-metre intervals from the original borehole drilled last August.

The drilling will take place over a three-week period after initial assay results from the first hole which showed "four distinct horizons of gold enrichment within the core". The latest cores will be assayed in Ireland and Canada.

"Following intense mineralogical and chemical follow up of the gold occurrence in the first bore hole, Credition is satisfied that it is fully justified on continuing the exploration to confirm the presence of gold over a wider area," said a spokesman for the company.

While the drilling goes on, other exploration work will be carried out at a number of other sites in the exploration licence area.

Grains of gold were discovered during last summer's £200,000 test drilling programme in a 45 kilometre-long, 12 kilometre-wide band of agricultural land called the Credition Trough.

It could be two or three years from the original drilling before the company could be certain it had an "economic ore body".

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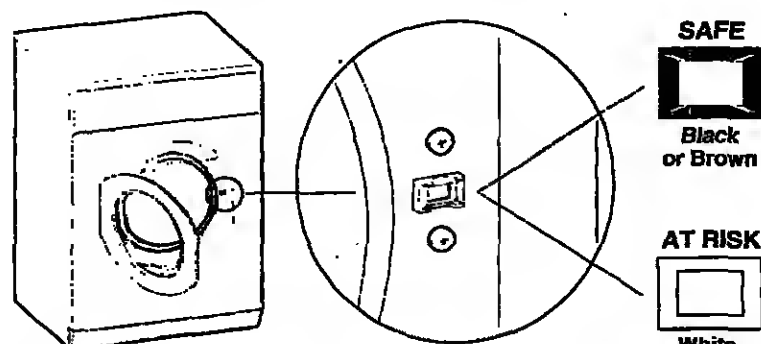
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Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

ARISTON Indesit
Washing Machines and Washer Dryers.



On some Ariston and Indesit Washing Machines and Washer Dryers a weakness has been identified which may enable the door to be opened when the appliance is in operation.

The only appliances that may be affected have a white plastic surround to the door lock mechanism.

The door lock mechanism is situated on the right hand side of the door opening as shown above. Please check your machine.

If the plastic surround is either **BLACK OR BROWN** you need take **NO FURTHER ACTION**.

If your appliance has a **WHITE** door lock surround, **FILL IN THE TEAR OFF SLIP BELOW**, put in an envelope, and post it to us at the address shown.

No stamp is necessary.

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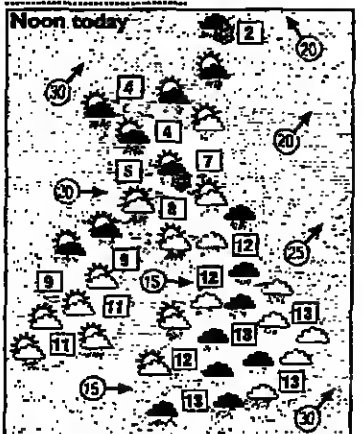
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Name: _____ Address: _____

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WEATHER



Today's forecast
England and Wales will be mild but windy and wet, with some heavy rain. There will be gales along the English Channel. Many southern and eastern parts of Britain will remain dry with rain on and off all day, but lighter showers and drizzle in Scotland and Northern Ireland will be colder with rain turning more showery as sun spots break through, but the far north will keep steady rain, preceded by sleet or snow.

Outlook for the next few days

Rain over southern England and Wales early on Wednesday will be heavy for a while but will clear to leave sun and the everywhere in the afternoon. It will be showery, however, with showers most frequent in the north and west. Over Scotland there will be rain, turning to sleet or snow as the wind increases. Thursday will be cold everywhere, with significant snowfall over Scotland, and windy showers of sleet or rain in the south. Most areas will be wet on Friday but northern Scotland will have heavy snow.

British Isles weather most recent available

Source: Met Office. For the latest local time, see page 10. For the latest local time, see page 10.

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	7-15	W 15	100
Amsterdam	8-14	W 15	100
Belfast	8-14	W 15	100
Birmingham	9-14	W 15	100
Bristol	9-14	W 15	100
Cardiff	9-14	W 15	100
Canterbury	9-14	W 15	100
Exeter	9-14	W 15	100
Edinburgh	9-14	W 15	100
Glasgow	9-14	W 15	100
London	9-14	W 15	100
Manchester	9-14	W 15	100
Newcastle	9-14	W 15	100
Nottingham	9-14	W 15	100
Sheffield	9-14	W 15	100
Southampton	9-14	W 15	100
Stirling	9-14	W 15	100
Swansea	9-14	W 15	100
Torquay	9-14	W 15	100
Wolverhampton	9-14	W 15	100
Wrexham	9-14	W 15	100

Air quality

Yesterday's readings

City	NO ₂	SO ₂	PM ₁₀
London	Good	Good	Good
South East	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

Outlook for today

London Good | Good | Good || South East | Good | Good | Good |
Wales	Good	Good	Good
England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 for the latest road and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).



INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecasts call 0800 5000. Forecast by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map.

Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

High tides

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	04:51	7.5	17:22	7.2
Liverpool	02:10	9.5	14:33	9.6
Ammanford	10:27	13.5	22:43	12.9
Hull (Albert Dock)	09:26	8.7	21:41	8.0
Glasgow	03:35	8.5	15:53	8.7
Dun Laoghaire	02:33	4.1	14:54	4.3

Lighting-up times

Height measured in metres

Belfast 18:03 | 10:06 || Birmingham | 17:50 | 10:48 |
Bristol	17:54	10:50
Glasgow	17:55	10:51
London	17:44	10:40
Manchester	17:50	10:50
Newcastle	17:46	10:50

Sun & moon

Sun rises 06:42

Sun sets 17:44

Moon rises 09:18

Moon sets 00:08

First Quarter March 5

Full Moon March 10

Waxing Crescent March 12

Waning Gibbous March 14

New Moon March 16

Waxing Gibbous March 18

Full Moon March 20

Waning Gibbous March 22

New Moon March 24

Waxing Gibbous March 26

Full Moon March 28

Waning Gibbous March 30

New Moon April 1

Search for gold in Devon hills

A COMBINATION of factors will lead to the discovery of gold in the Devon hills, according to a report by a team of geologists. The team, led by Professor John Goff, of the University of Exeter, has been working on a project to identify areas of the Devonian period which are likely to contain gold. The team has been working on a project to identify areas of the Devonian period which are likely to contain gold. The team has been working on a project to identify areas of the Devonian period which are likely to contain gold.

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To her godchildren: A few sentimental things

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE BULK of the fortune of Diana, Princess of Wales is divided equally between her sons but the amended will, made last December, allows for more personal bequests which her family felt she would have wanted.

Chief among these is the £50,000 bequest to her butler, Paul Burrell, and a list of china and paintings which are to be given to her godchildren.

Maryn Gower, of Lawrence Graham, the lawyers acting as executors for the Princess's estate, said: "The trustees have decided on the items for each of the children. There are a range of things like pictures, nice pieces of china and some special photographs. They are not really things of monetary value and in the context of a £21m estate they are insignificant. They are purely of sentimental value."

It also includes "moral rights" relating to her name, reputation, voice, or "any other characteristic or feature of Diana, Princess of Wales".

The Princess's wedding dress, her wardrobe and intellectual property rights - including copyright trademarks and the resulting royalties from the authorised commercial use of her picture or name - are to be used for charity purposes, or for the benefit of William, 15, or Harry, 13. It is likely that the wedding dress and some of her designer gowns will go on permanent display at her ancestral home of Althorp.

The executors of the Princess's will, her mother Frances Shand Kydd, her sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale and the Bishop of London, the Rt. Rev Richard Chartres, agreed with John Major, who is acting as legal guardian to the young princes that the will should be made public.



Diana in her wedding dress, which is likely to go on permanent display at Althorp, and (below) the signature to her original will

The gross value of the estate was £21,711,485, which, after the payment of unspecified personal taxes, was reduced to £21,468,352. A total of £8,502,330 was paid in inheritance tax and the remaining £12,966,022 will be distributed to the beneficiaries, chiefly the Princes William and Harry.

Until they are 25, the executors will decide how much of the income from their share they should receive and once they are 30 they may ask for the capital. Under the terms of the original will they stood to inherit at 25, provided they survived the Princess for three months.

A discretionary fund has also been set up for the princes and their future families and also for any charities which the trustees may decide could benefit, which could include the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. The fund is listed as including "all my wearing apparel", the sum of £100,000 and any money or investments. It operates independently from the rest of the estate.

The new will shows how measures were taken to protect Diana's legacy for her children. A section marked "The Intellectual Property Rights", highlights the rights that are, or could be, owned by the estate and includes the copyright to artistic work, performers' rights and trademarks world-wide.

Although widely expected to become a bestseller, there was only a trickle of people at Somerset House yesterday morning. Staff had prepared 200 copies photocopies of the will in anticipation of the demand, but by mid-morning the bulk of those had been sold to the media. A spokesman for the probate office said about 300 copies were sold by the end of the day and staff had been busy taking calls from around the world.

The first person to buy a copy of the will was Christine Lansdowne, 72, from Sydney, Australia. She had come to Somerset House to research her family history and after purchasing her copy found herself the object of intense media interest. "I was here quite by chance and decided it was a unique opportunity to buy a historical document. She was the mother of the future King of England and I shall treasure it," she said.

Mrs Lansdowne said she had been a lifelong royalist, adding: "My mother had pictures of the whole family on the walls all the time and I was married 50 years ago, like the Queen, so I suppose I do feel a bond."

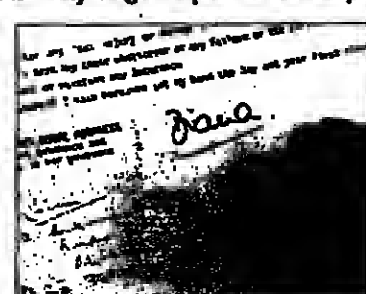
However, Musa Andu, 45, like most of the others who arrived during the morning, had come for more prosaic reasons. "I am a probate solicitor and I was curious to see what her legacy was and who the beneficiaries were," he said.

THE GODCHILDREN

Diana, Princess of Wales, had 17 godchildren, all of whom are provided for in her new will. They are: Lady Edwina Gower, 16, second child of the Duke and Duchess of Westminster; the first of Diana's godchildren. The Princess attended the private christening in February 1982, six months after her wedding. She was already expecting Prince William and within two years Lady Edwina was seen as an ideal bride for the future king.

The Hon. Alexandra Knatchbull, 15, was the second godchild. The daughter of Lord and Lady Romney and great granddaughter of the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Clare Casale, 13, daughter of Isabel (née Denny), the Princess's third cousin, and Victor Casale. Mr Casale's father was the Queen Mother's race horse trainer. Camilla Scraler, 12, daughter of Reuben and Hon. Sophie Scraler. Sophie Scraler was a former fiancée of Diana, and the Princess also attended the couple's wedding three months after her own. Sophie was a guest at the Princess's funeral.

Prince Philippos, 11, son of the ex-King, Constantine of Greece - cousin of the Duke of Edinburgh - and Queen Anne-Marie of Hellenes.



Leonora Lonsdale, 11, daughter of Jamie and Laura Lonsdale. Mrs Lonsdale was a lady-in-waiting to the Princess, who had attended her wedding. The Lonsdales' 11-month-old son Louis died in 1992 and Diana was a guest at the funeral. Mrs Lonsdale attended the Princess's funeral.

Jade Warren, 11, son of John and Lady Carolyn Warren. Lady Carolyn is the daughter of the Queen's racing manager, the Earl of Carrmarvon.

Lady Mary Wellestey, 11, daughter of the Marquess and Marchioness of Douro. The Marquess is the Duke of Wellington's heir. George Frost, 10, son of the broadcaster Sir David and Lady Carina Frost. Antonia Twiss-Davies, 10, daughter of Audrey Twiss-Davies, a company director, and

his wife, the Hon. Caroline Harbord Harbord, who was a schoolfriend of Diana. Jack Fallow, 9, son of Col Simon Fallow, of the Household Cavalry, and Isabel Fallow. Edward, Lord Downpatrick, nine, son of the Earl and Countess of St Andrews. The Earl, eldest son of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, gave up his rights as 17th in line to the throne to marry Sybil, a Roman Catholic divorcee in 1988.

Jack Bartholomew, eight, son of William and Carolyn Bartholomew. Carolyn was a schoolfriend and fiancée of Diana, and both the Prince and Princess of Wales attended their wedding in 1982. Mrs Bartholomew was at Diana's funeral. Benjamin Samuel, eight, son of the Hon. Michael and Julia Samuel. Julia Samuel attended the Princess's funeral. The couple dedicated to improving support for bereaved parents.

Antonia Harrington, six, daughter of Jonathan Harrington. Daisy Soames, five, daughter of the Hon. Rupert and Camilla Soames. Rupert is the brother of Nicholas Soames, the former Conservative defence minister. Domenica Lawson, two, daughter of Dominic Lawson and the Hon. Rosa Monckton, the friend with whom Diana enjoyed a holiday the month before she died. Mrs Monckton was at the funeral.

THE BEQUESTS

The items to be left to the godchildren were included as part of a 130-page valuation catalogue - including china, ornaments and paintings - compiled by Christie's for the executors shortly after the death of the Princess. It will not be released to the public as it is privately owned by the executors.

Some of the objects which form sets will be divided among her godchildren at the behest of the executors.

A spokesman for the executors said: "They are not really things of monetary value and in the context of a £21m estate they are insignificant. They are purely of sentimental value."

The gifts, often very briefly described, include: Four pieces of Odenby crockery; an Odenby Coffee service; H. Cockat's Decanter; Carriage Clock Dresden pen tray; Shepherdless Watercolour; Herand animals (Herand is a Hungarian porcelain factory that makes model animals that sell at around £30 each); Watercolour; Hunting figures; Part of a tea service; Bird Model; Model Harp.

MP whose star rose above the ridicule

IN THE NEWS
ANN WIDDECOMBE

ON THE surface it seems a tale of forgiveness and reconciliation. Michael Howard is keen to broadcast the fact that he considers Ann Widdecombe, the woman who effectively scuppered his Tory leadership hopes, would be a very useful colleague in the Shadow Cabinet, and he would have no objections to her appointment.

So what is it like for Ms Widdecombe to be suddenly embraced by a colleague whom she once described as having "something of the night" about him? A source close to her mused: "I suppose one can cope, as long as there is a plentiful supply of garlic."

Appearances can be deceiving, in politics perhaps more than any other aspect of life. Michael Howard's offering of the olive branch, say Ms Widdecombe's supporters, has less to do with magnanimity than saving his own face. She has already been sounded out about a post in William Hague's team, and the shadow Foreign Secretary is in no position to object.

It is no longer thought to be a case of if she will join the Shadow Cabinet, but in what capacity. One of the possible posts could be social services - with the present incumbent Iain Duncan-Smith promoted - or home affairs, where Brian Mawhinney has signalled an intention to leave front-line politics.

The source added: "Michael did not really have a choice. There is a lot of support for Ann Widdecombe being in the Shadow Cabinet, and he can hardly object. He



Ann Widdecombe: 'Politics is a very long game' Photograph: Mike Moore

is basically retreating first by being gracious. But he has been very frosty the few times they have spoken together recently. If she gets on the Shadow Cabinet they will obviously work together, but it would be hypocritical to say there has been a rapprochement."

Since the May meltdown - as what is left of the Tory parliamentary party tries to find itself a coherent role - the star of the woman once ridiculed as "Doris Karloff" has continued to rise. She makes regular appearances on a television series, her novel is close to completion, and in the House her attacks on Blairism have earned her a new nickname - "U-boat Widdecombe".

Interestingly, Ms Widdecombe's parliamentary efforts have won the approval of not only Tory MPs, seeing at least someone in their ranks who can get under the

Kim Sengupta

ANN AND CHOCOLATES AND FLOWERS AND SOMETHING OF THE NIGHT

Ms Widdecombe clashed with her boss, Michael Howard over the sacking of the Prisons Director Derek Lewis. She claimed the Home Secretary had misled the House of Commons over the matter. It

was suggested that Mr Lewis had sent Ms Widdecombe chocolates and flowers, with the suggestion that she had somehow become besotted with the Prisons Director. An angry Ms Widdecombe proved no such gifts had been sent. "Something of the night" was her description of Mr Howard.

ANN'S PROGRESS Ms Widdecombe decided to become a politician at the age of 14 while at a boarding school at Bath. She entered politics after Oxford she became the villain of the left for her defence of handcuffing expectant mothers at Holloway jail, and then for her role in saving Michael Howard.

ANN AND SEX Ms Widdecombe, a converted Catholic, is against sex before marriage. She is unmarried, and has been unmarried apart from a brief courtship at Oxford. She says: "If anyone says I am not a virgin, I will sue. One can easily do without sex, just as one can do without television."

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Keeping the lid on: Alex Hammersley, a PR consultant, with the 1736 Drury-Lowe silver tureen, part of a collection by the renowned 18th-century silver-maker, Paul de Lamerie which will be auctioned in New York and London. The tureen is expected to fetch £500,000 to £800,000. Photograph: PA

Housing ban on paedophiles 'puts children at risk'

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

Local councils should not impose blanket bans on housing convicted paedophiles, the Chartered Institute of Housing said in new guidelines released yesterday.

"Hard-line approaches" often do little more than drive child-sex offenders underground, putting children at more risk, the organisation warned.

The institute has produced the first guidelines for housing workers in England and Wales to deal with the highly sensitive issue of convicted paedophiles in the community. The move

follows a series of incidents across the country when convicted or suspected paedophiles have been driven from their homes by angry neighbours. Some councils have used their powers under the Housing Act effectively to exclude most or all sex offenders from housing registers.

In Middlesbrough, the local authority announced that it would formally exclude sex offenders from estates. In Birmingham, however, a council worker was suspended for allegedly alerting mothers on an estate that a paedophile was moving into the area.

The institute argues against banning paedophiles, saying such an approach could expose an authority to a legal challenge. Instead it urges local authorities to work with other agencies including the police, social services and probation.

"A hard-line approach may mean the ex-offender becomes homeless or is housed in the private sector and other professionals may find it more difficult to manage their rehabilitation," say the guidelines.

The institute also notes that it is impossible to form a stereotypical definition of a sex offender. Children are more at risk from people they know (two-thirds of victims know their abusers) and half of abusers were or had been married. "What police are most concerned about is not being able to trace someone with a histo-

ry of sex abuse," said the institute's chief executive, Christine Laird. "It's very important to know where sex offenders are located within the community so we can ensure the community is protected."

The document has been officially endorsed by the Local Government Association, which represents nearly 400 housing associations in England and Wales.

"What we are interested in is ensuring that a national framework is created to deal with housing sex offenders so it is not left to individual arrangements by police," said Jeanette York, the organisation's housing policy officer. "This is the first step towards addressing regional inconsistencies and maintaining public confidence."

The initiative was also backed by Victim Support, which offers counselling to victims of crime. "We have to welcome what they are doing with regard to rehousing sex offenders," said a spokesperson. "It is an emotive issue and one of concern to vulnerable members of the public, the victims."

John Wadham, of the civil rights group Liberty, added: "Obviously sex offenders need houses in exactly the same way as does everyone else. If we can't house them then they are more likely to reoffend."

"The key question is where sex offenders are to be housed rather than whether or not they should be housed."

£50,000 dilemma over freed killer

Robert Oliver served 10 years of a 15-year sentence after being convicted of the murder of 14-year-old Jason Swift, who was throttled and gang-raped in a flat in east London, writes Glenda Cooper.

Since his release he has been hounded from town to town, with one force having to shoulder a bill of more than £50,000 for keeping him in a cell after he sought refuge, fearing revenge attacks by the public.

His case illustrates the debate over whether convicted sex offenders should be able to live in the community and, if so, whether people should be informed.

Oliver was released from Wandsworth prison in September and registered on the national paedophile register. He has been hounded out of Swindon, London, Dublin, Liverpool and Manchester. He cut his hair and wore glasses to avoid recognition, but when he arrived in Brighton, social services sent letters to the parents of 27,000 children in the town. He told the *Evening Argus*: "I am frightened for my life. It feels like a lynch mob is out there waiting to get me." As a result, he ended up in the police cell for four months for his own protection. Sussex police estimate it cost the public £50,000 to keep him un-



Robert Oliver: Feared a lynch mob

der lock and key. Sex-offender treatment clinics initially refused to take responsibility for Oliver, although yesterday Sussex police confirmed that he had moved out of the area and was at a medium-secure forensic unit where, although he has his own room and en suite bathroom, he is treated under lock and key.

Asked why this clinic had admitted Oliver when others had refused, a spokeswoman for the clinic said: "Any patient admitted has to meet specific criteria for admission and Mr Oliver will have met those criteria." The police said: "He has agreed voluntarily to go to an assessment centre and we are looking for a long-term solution to his situation."

Gulf veterans link cancers to missiles

URANIUM particles released by Allied shelling during the Gulf War could be responsible for cancers which killed 30 British veterans.

Campaigners believe that microscopic quantities of depleted uranium (DU) may have contributed to a spate of lymphatic cancers which have claimed the lives of UK soldiers who served during the 1991 conflict.

The artillery shells and bombs used by both the British and US forces in the Gulf were tipped with DU to penetrate heavy armour plating.

Tony Flint, acting chairman of the Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association, said: "Depleted uranium was on these weapons as they exploded with incredible heat and force - who knows what effect it had on those in the area."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, which is in-

vestigating DU as part of a wide-ranging inquiry into the causes of Gulf War illnesses, said there was no evidence so far of the metal being responsible for any abnormal diseases or conditions.

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سكنا من الامم

'Bossy' Labour accused of creating criminals

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

THE Government was yesterday accused of criminalising honest citizens with "an endless raft of unnecessary, bossy, nanny-ing, tyrannical rules and regulations", dealing with issues from pistol-shooting to on-the-bone beef.

The Commons outburst from Quentin Davies, an outspoken Conservative backbencher, coincided with an

announcement that planning permission was being considered for Leylandii hedges, and news that the Commons agriculture committee is to investigate controversial plans to curb the sale of Vitamin B6.

Mr Davies's irate protest came during Commons question time, when he asked Jack Straw, the Home Secretary: "Do you not realise that, in the light of yesterday's countryside rally, if you go much further along this road and reduce the

drink-driving limit and ban fox-hunting, you will bring the law into progressive disrepute, not to mention your dreadful government?"

To Tory cheers, he asked: "Isn't it about time this government thought before it regulated?"

Mr Straw replied: "You know the fox-hunting Bill is a Private Member's measure - but you also know there is overwhelming public support for the crime and disorder agenda

which this government is vigorously pursuing."

During question time, Mr Straw also took the opportunity to accuse some animal rights protesters of being terrorists.

"I believe that some of the actions of the so-called animal rights protesters to be utterly outrageous," he said. "In some cases - some of the individuals have been convicted of offences which amount to terrorism."

But the charge that the Gov-

ernment is meddling in matters that should be none of its business will be fuelled by a decision taken by the Commons agriculture committee, at a private meeting last week, to hold a speedy investigation into government plans to restrict the sale of B6 Vitamins.

Under government proposals - which will require legislation and which are said to have provoked 100,000 protest letters - B6 doses of more than 10 milligrams will only be available

from pharmacists, with anything over 50mg requiring a prescription.

As for domestic hedges, Richard Caborn, the planning minister, said in a written Commons reply to Peter Luff, Conservative chairman of the agriculture committee: "Planning permission is already required where a fence, wall or gate would be over one metre high and next to a highway used by vehicles, or over two metres elsewhere."

"I am considering whether some form of government intervention is relation to Leylandii trees and other high boundary hedges is necessary."

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said yesterday that legislation on fox-hunting was not seen as a government priority, if, as expected, Michael Foster's Private Member's legislation is stalled and killed off by determined opponents.

His Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is due to

have the first day of its Commons report stage on Friday.

The No 10 spokesman also said that Mr Blair had not so far given any consideration to the creation of a new government department, which would consolidate responsibility for countryside matters.

He said a decision was not imminent, but as any announcement would be tied in with Mr Blair's first Cabinet reshuffle, there is no need for haste.

Peers impose defeat on student fees

By Anthony Bevins

THE Government was defeated in the Lords last night, when peers carried an amendment to the Teaching and Higher Education Bill, seeking to ensure that power students pay no more than half their maintenance costs. Voting was 143 to 102, an Opposition majority of 41.

The vote would restore maintenance grants as recommended by the Dearing report, and last night jubilant Tories who led the defeat said it would be difficult for the Prime Minister to seek to overturn the Lords' vote.

"Tony Blair said last week in the Commons that he was implementing the Dearing Committee report. The Lords have taken him at his word. He can't get out of that now," said David Willetts, a front bench Tory spokesman in the Commons.

The vote was forced by Baroness Blatch, a former minister and the Tory education spokesman in the Lords, with crossbench and Liberal Democrat support. Labour left wing MPs have warned the Government they could also rebel if concessions are not made by ministers before the Bill returns to the Commons.

Earlier, a Liberal Democrat attempt to overturn the Government's plan for tuition fees for students was narrowly defeated by 14, on a vote of 110 to 96 against the party's amendment. The amendment would have ensured that students' £1,000-a-year fees were repaid as a Government grant.

In the vote, which took place during the detailed report stage debate on Bill, several Labour peers rebelled against the Gov-

ernment line, including Lord Glenamara, the former deputy Labour leader and one-time Secretary of State for Education.

Introducing the amendment, Lord Tope, the Liberal Democrat sponsor, said there was "widespread concern and opposition throughout the country" to tuition fees. He warned that they were a disincentive to applying to university and the next target could be the sixth form.

"The time has come to say that student payment of tuition fees is a step too far in principle, in practice and in terms of the dangers that it opens up."

Lord Glenamara said the Government had "taken leave of its senses" and "gone off its rocker" imposing tuition fees.

It had no mandate to do it, and was putting a "roadblock" on the route to further education. The plan was "grotesquely unfair", he protested.

But Baroness Blackstone, the Education Minister, said the amendment would "run counter to the fair funding arrangements" for higher education which the Government proposed. It would require the taxpayer to bear the full cost of higher education, including paying for those who would eventually earn the highest salaries.

If the amendment was accepted, the only way to control the higher education budget would be to impose strict curbs on the numbers of students and that would be unacceptable.

Lord Tope's amendment was supported by five Labour rebels - including Lord Glenamara - 46 Liberal Democrats, 31 Tories, 12 crossbenchers and two bishops.



Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, and Margaret Ewing, MP for Moray, taking a break during the Scottish Grand Committee meeting in Edinburgh yesterday

SNP seeks inquiry into Connery snub

THE Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards is to be asked to investigate claims that the former Bond actor Sean Connery was denied a knighthood because of a donation to the Scottish National Party.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, yesterday said that he would be writing to Lord Neill to ask him if people are discriminated against for giving money to political parties.

Mr Salmond was speaking after the Scottish Grand Committee in Edinburgh, where he had earlier tried to raise the subject with Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, through a question about more

freedom of information within the new Scottish Parliament. He said: "Perhaps if there is more freedom of information, we could be told if Mr Connery or anyone else has been discriminated against because of their political policies."

However, the committee chairman, John Maxton MP, immediately ruled Mr Salmond out of order - leaving Mr Dewar free to ignore the question.

Later Mr Salmond said: "It is unprecedented that the chairman of the committee intervened to protect the minister from answering. My question was certainly about freedom of information, about publishing



Sean Connery: Donation

the decision where Sean Connery was discriminated against for political reasons.

"These questions are not going to go away. They will remain

until they are answered because they reflect on the credibility of the Government and the decision-making processes going on in the Scottish Office."

Mr Salmond said he would be writing to Lord Neill, as he was unable to table Parliamentary questions on the subject in the House of Commons.

Mr Dewar also came under some fire for the leaked proposal to house the Scottish Parliament temporarily in the former headquarters of Strathclyde Regional Council in Glasgow.

Ironically he was being questioned in the building which many felt should have housed the Parliament, the

Old Royal High School, rather than in a new building in Holyrood.

Mr Dewar accused the Nationalists of "blind prejudice" against Glasgow, but added that it was still a contest between three sites. He said: "I was astonished by the Nationalists' reactions to the suggestion that there should be a site in Glasgow. I don't believe any sensible person would see it as an insult to Glasgow. I can only think that it comes from a view based on blind prejudice."

He added that as soon as the Glasgow option was raised he had informed the opposition parties.

NHS in bid to cut £70m fraud

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

MINISTERS will unveil a new NHS prescription form tomorrow to combat fraud, as the Government weathers the storm over its decision to increase prescription charges by 15p to a total £5.80 per item.

The rise, revealed exclusively in yesterday's *Independent*, led to a backlash from patients' groups, health union leaders and the Liberal Democrats, and upset the Government's plans for spin-doctoring to defend the increase as a real-terms cut.

The new forms will contain a light-sensitive strip as an anti-fraud device in an attempt to stop an estimated £70m a year trade in forged prescriptions.

Pharmacists are to be offered rewards for spotting the forgeries, but the fraud-busting measures will increase criticism that the prescription charge is too high and encourage other forms of dodging.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said the 2.7 per cent rise was less than inflation. "For the first time, the charge has fallen against inflation." He confirmed that ministers were actively looking at the possibility of restoring free eye-tests and free dental check-ups for the elderly to soften the impact.

Liberal Democrat spokesman Simon Hughes said: "Instead of taxing the sick, isn't it time the Government started trying to make them better?"

Peter Curyph, president of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, said: "This rise may well be small, but for some people it will be the final straw which will prevent them from obtaining the NHS treatment they need."

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سكنا من الامم

Mr A. Nino weathers a storm of protest

By Charles Arthur
Science Editor

FEW PEOPLE know what it's like to be mistaken for a shifting mass of warm water in the Pacific Ocean. But one man in the town of Nipomo, on the coast of California, does. Oh yes, Alfonso Nino - "Al" to his friends - certainly knows.

The phone calls started a few weeks ago. As the weather worsened, so did the tones of complaint. Sometimes the people were rude — and at first the retired naval pilot was confused by them. "What the hell do you mean by making it rain so much?" they would ask. Then the penny dropped: they thought that El Niño was El Niño, the ocean circulatory system which over the past few months has caused inches of unseasonal rain to be dumped on the state of California.

Mr Nino has had more than



100 calls. "One man rang me and said I was responsible for his daughter losing her virginity," Mr Nino said. "I said, how? He said, because she couldn't get home one night because a storm blocked the road. I said I was sorry, though I didn't know what she thought of it."

Usually, he said; he just plays along with callers: "But

some really believe it's my fault. I just play along with those ones, and warn them if they're not nice I'll make it keep raining."

And there's a silver lining to this cloud. Mr Nino, who is 75 a week today, has abruptly discovered that Andy Warhol was right about those 15 minutes of fame. He has featured in the local *San Jose Mercury News*, on his local television station, on television in New York, the *Jay Leno Show*, and countless radio shows. Meanwhile his phone number is oow on the Internet, where people are wondering if he's related to the outdoor mural artist Al Fresco, the noted pasta chef Al Dente, or the reptile keeper Al Ligator.

Receiving our call from the UK reminded Mr Nino of Scotland. "I was posted there. My son was born there." And his son's name? "Alan." At least he'll know not to shorten it in the phone book.



Chain reaction: A mountain biker takes advantage of early spring sunshine on the edge of Lake Bala in North Wales. Photograph: Steve Peak

Welfare plan finds work for one-third

**By Anthony Bevins
and Glenda Cooper**

ONE-THIRD of lone parents taking part in the "New Deal" welfare-to-work programme have been found work in the first six months that pilot schemes have been running, it was said last night.

As the scheme will eventually be open to half of the 1 million lone parents currently claiming income support - those with children of school age - ministers are closely monitoring initial results.

Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, said last night that it was encouraging that once lone parents became aware of the advantages offered by the personal help they would receive, 90 per cent of those interviewed agreed to take part in the programme.

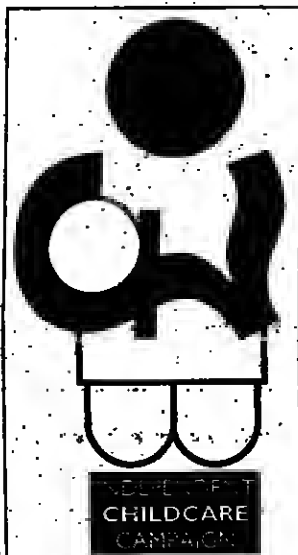
In the eleven pilot areas, 20,205 lone parents had been contacted in the first six months; there had been 4,584 initial interviews booked; 3,761 had attended those interviews; 3,368 had agreed to participate - and 1,113 had found work.

No breakdown was available of the kind of work taken up - full-time or part-time, pay rates, or sectors - but the Department has ordered an independent evaluation, which will provide greater detail, including a comparison with areas where the scheme is not operating.

But one of the case studies provided by the Department cited the case of a woman of 39, with two children, aged 11 and 15, who had been on income support for seven years.

Having left school at 16 without formal qualifications, she started work last September as a sales assistant, and was now £84.40 a week better off in work.

In another case, a woman of



31, with three children aged 4, 8 and 10, was £33.35 a week better off as a receptionist.

Ms Harman said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had already made £300m available for out-of-school childcare for low-income families - which was helping the lone parents taking part in the scheme.

After a "manifesto" for lone-parent families was delivered to No 10 yesterday, Sally Witcher, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said the New Deal scheme for lone parents was welcome, but not enough, partly because it was aimed only at those with school-age children.

"The extent of child poverty among lone parent families is a national scandal," she said.

"Poverty does not have to be an inevitable consequence of lone parenthood, although cuts to lone parent benefits will increase the likelihood of poverty. Instead, with proper support, lone parents could be enabled to have real choices - as parents or as workers, or in combining the two important roles."

the two important roles

'Obsessed husband behind acid attack'

An obsessed husband arranged to have concentrated nitric acid thrown in the face of his estranged wife - only for the teenage baby-sitter to be scalded by mistake, a court was told yesterday.

Beverley Hammett, 21, her face still bearing the scars of the attack, told the jury how she felt a "burning sensation" after opening the front door on hearing a noise outside the house.

The woman said by the prosecution to have been the real target of the attack, 37-year-old Susan Humphrey, told Exeter Crown Court that she could not believe the sight of the baby sitting in the car. "I will never forget

it. I could not believe someone could do something like this," she said.

Her estranged husband, Peter Humphrey, 51, from Axminster, Devon, pleaded not guilty to two charges of aiding and abetting a person or persons unknown to cause grievous bodily harm on 10 July 1996.

The court was told that Mr. Humphrey was so "consumed by jealousy" at the breakdown of his marriage that he "caused or helped" another person - who has not been traced - to hurl acid into the face of his estranged wife.

The trial was adjourned until today.

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Time marches on for grand old man of the news



Images of the age: Time's first cover, with House Speaker Joseph Cannon, the anniversary issue, and Douglas Fairbanks and Charles Lindbergh



By Steve Crawshaw

IT BEGAN in 1923 as a bright idea launched by two Yale graduates in their twenties. Henry Luce and Briton Hadden created a 32-page news magazine - an entirely untried idea. The philosophy was clearly defined: everything should be "illuminating or epic or super-curly factual". As the confident prospectus declared, the aim of the magazine was to "cut through the clutter of information we're exposed to, and to try to make sense of the world".

Three-quarters of a century later, Time magazine has taken on an almost emblematic quality, representing the power

and influence of the press world-wide. The Man of the Year slot and the cover stories have become an international reference point, a shorthand for fame. This week, some former cover subjects - including President Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, Bill Gates and Muhammad Ali - will be among those attending Time's 75th birthday celebrations at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Time is the accepted grand old man of news magazines everywhere.

Paradoxically, the Man of the Year slot was invented as a way of covering up the fact that the magazine had failed to put Charles Lindbergh on the cover when he

made his pioneering flight in May 1927. Instead, Lindbergh was promoted to the cover story in a quiet week for news at the end of the year - the first ever Man of the Year.

The magazine - which, according to the original concept, was to be readable within an hour - remains predominantly American in its world view. But it sells almost a third of its 5.5 million copies outside the United States. In Britain alone, it sells almost as many copies as The Economist. Increasingly, it has become a global news magazine, with regional European and Asian editions edited in London and Hong Kong respectively.

For its critics, Time is dominated by the culture of the soundbite. It remains an editors', not a writers', paper. The editors in New York argued that they made the stories easier to read and understand; correspondents sometimes feel that New York has turned a story upside down. As Lance Morrow notes in this week's anniversary issue: "Sometimes correspondents in the field and editors in New York took exactly opposite views about whether a story had gone from bad to good or good to bad in the editorial alchemy."

For the enthusiasts, this is a key source of well-packaged information - in constant competition with Newsweek, the rival

that was founded in 1933. Like Newsweek, Time plays a key role in a country where the national distribution of the heavy-weight daily press - the Washington Post, the New York Times, or the Los Angeles Times - remains patchy.

Time is now part of a media empire whose influence is so enormous that critics see damaging conflicts of interest. In some ways, these mirror the controversy in recent days over Rupert Murdoch's intervention to prevent publication of a book by Chris Patten that would be critical of China. The Time-Warner empire includes, alongside Time magazine, Warner Brothers movie studios, and CNN. In the

circumstances, the possibilities for Time to talk frankly about problems at Warner Bros or at CNN are clearly limited.

But Time insists that it can remain independent in spirit. It insists, too, that the prospects remain good. The chairman of Time Inc, Don Logan, noted last June: "I don't know of anybody making money on the Internet." In the meantime, however, Time's own emphasis on online access has continued to grow. The magazine now advertises five separate online services. Time magazine is used to re-inventing its format. That will no doubt continue, even if the heart of the magazine remains the same.



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Wife-killer doctor jailed for six years

A LEADING gynaecologist was jailed for six years at the Old Bailey after admitting that he battered his wife with a hammer and then threw her to her death from their bedroom window.

Vivian Harris, 51, bludgeoned his wife Jocelyn, 39, at least seven times as she sat sipping coffee with her back to him on the patio of their home in Beckenham, Kent.

He had suffered severe depression over impending divorce proceedings, said Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution. Harris, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Lewisham and Guy's Hospitals, London, admitted manslaughter in June last year due to diminished responsibility. His plea of not guilty to murder was accepted by the court.

Mrs Harris's skull was fractured and fragments of it scattered on the patio in the attack - but she was still alive. Harris then wrapped her in a bin liner and sheet and carried her upstairs to the first-floor master bedroom where he threw her

back on to the patio, said Mr Sweeney. She died from a fractured spine.

The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, said he had heard from three psychiatrists that Harris was suffering from a depressive illness which substantially impaired his mental responsibility for the acts.

He said: "The responsibility for the death of your wife is yours and yours alone. It is a responsibility which is diminished in accordance with the law because of your medical condition at the time - but it is not extinguished or shared."

Harris first tried to cover up the death of his wife - a former nurse - by pretending to police she had fallen from the window. Then he confessed he had "snapped". Harris said that over the last two months she had subjected him to the "most unbelievable feeling of worthlessness over the insane, crazy divorce."

Defence counsel Julian Bevan QC said Harris's guilt and torment for the crime would never end.

Railtrack warned of safety prosecutions

By Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

RAILTRACK, the owner of the nation's railways, could face criminal prosecutions over the "persistent poor condition" of some tracks.

The concerns of the Health and Safety Executive came to light in a letter to Railtrack from the deputy inspector of railways, Vic Coleman.

That said prosecutions of Railtrack by the HSE were being considered. In two cases, Mr Coleman wrote, track was "in such an extremely bad condition so as to be unsafe".

Railtrack already faces an HSE prosecution over a freight train crash at Bexley in Kent in February last year when seven wagons left the track, injuring four members of the public.

The inspectorate remained "concerned about the condition of track on the Railtrack network".

In one incident highlighted, a passenger train left the rails at Harwich, injuring a passen-

ger. Two days later, a nuclear waste train was derailed a mile along the same line.

Mr Coleman said his inspectorate would not tolerate track that was "not being maintained in a condition so as to reduce the risk of railway passengers and employees so far as is reasonably practicable".

Railtrack said it had met safety inspectors last week. "The railway is safe and this remains a Railtrack priority," a spokesman said.

The company's critics say it is parsimonious. "Railtrack has under-spent its maintenance budget by £277m, so a less safe railway is an understandable result," said Jonathan Bray of Save Our Railways.

Safety is a key concern for Railtrack. It had a setback in 1994, when it took over from British Rail. Then empty passenger coaches were derailed on tracks approaching Euston station, London. The HSE then issued an enforcement notice making the company replace worn-out tracks.

DAILY POEM

Curtains

By Mike Harding

The way he drew the curtains liked you so,
His magazines left on the seats of chairs,
His bubbling pipe, the broken mouse-trail trail
Of dried-hard mud from his boots up the stairs,

His cough before he spoke and those old lines
"Well, worse things happen at sea", "Fair do!"
And "Cheer up, you're a long time dead!"
But now as you Oxfam his clothes and shoes,

Those Christmas ties he never wore,
And bin his "comics" and his tatty pipes,
What would you give to find those shards of mud,
The morning curtains hanging "just not right",

A chip of cough from somewhere in the house
Before "Love have you seen my ...?"

Our poems today and tomorrow come from *Crystal Set Dreams*, the second collection by the travel and children's writer Mike Harding, who is also well-known as a folk singer and comedian. *Crystal Set Dreams* (£7.95) is published by Peterloo Poets, 2 Kelly Gardens, Calstock, Cornwall PL18 9SA.

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Heads to rebel over pay of star teachers

By Judith Judd
Education Editor

HEAD teachers will resist government plans for a new grade of superteacher who may earn more than many heads.

The new "advanced skills teachers", announced yesterday, would be paid between £25,000 and £40,000 a year to remain in the classroom rather than switching to management.

The best-paid would earn more than all but 1.1 per cent of primary head teachers and all but 6.7 per cent of secondary deputy heads.

Head teachers' leaders said they would be advising heads and governing bodies not to appoint superteachers unless heads' and deputies' differentials were protected.

From next year, the average salary of primary deputy heads will be about £27,000 and secondary deputies around £35,000. The equivalent figures for heads are £32,000 and £48,000.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, recognised that good teachers were "worth their weight in gold" but added: "It is very unlikely that there will be enough money in school budgets to pay the salaries demanded. There are many more good teachers in schools than those who will be covered by this grade."

The scheme would deepen the crisis in recruitment for heads and deputies: "If you can get that sort of money by being an advanced skills teacher, why apply to be a head?"

The Government's proposals are based on recommendations from the teachers' independent pay review body which says that superteachers should have extra duties on top of their classroom teaching, should not have the same limit on their working time as or-

inary teachers and should have their performance reviewed by inspectors each year.

Its report described the scheme as "radical and innovative with potentially far-reaching effects on teachers' career structure and pay".

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, wants superteachers to spend at least a day a week in other schools. Mr Blunkett said: "The new grade will reward the very best classroom teachers. The introduction of this grade shows our commitment to rewarding the best teachers and encouraging the brightest graduates to take up teaching as a career."

Advanced skill teachers will spend up to 20 per cent of their time spreading good practice to other schools.

The first teachers on the new grade will be selected this September and work both in specialist schools and the first education action zones, designed to raise standards in deprived areas.

Teachers said the new arrangements would create unfair divisions among teachers. Eamonn O'Kane, of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said: "The great majority of able, committed teachers will, by definition, not be eligible to become advanced skills teachers and that is bound to cause resentment."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "There will be big problems created by cutting across the management structure in schools, and the structure of extra pay for additional responsibilities."

A survey of members of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers found that teachers thought between a fifth and a half of the profession should be recognised as advanced skills teachers.

Red-tape protest moves closer

THE biggest teaching union will decide this week whether to ballot on a campaign to boycott classroom bureaucracy, writes Judith Judd.

A survey by the National Union of Teachers found that teachers complained about bulk photocopying in remedy book shortages, copying out lists, chasing up absent or late children and time-wasting preparation for inspections.

Anger among teachers about paperwork and red tape is growing.

Leaders of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers have already decided to ballot members over red tape as part of their campaign to let teachers teach.

Members of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers will vote at their Easter conference on a motion calling for strike ac-

tion, if necessary, to reduce the stress on primary teachers.

Recommendations from a government working party on red tape have failed to end the profession's frustration over the bureaucratic burden on schools.

The NUT is expected to decide this week on a ballot which could lead to a boycott of some paperwork.

Doug McAvoy, its general secretary, said: "The profession has always been clear in its attitude to non-teaching duties. If they support teaching and learning, the hours spent are worthwhile - but must be within acceptable limits."

"What teachers detest most is the ever-growing list of tasks and the hours they consume which contribute nothing to their pupils' development and the quality of their teaching."

Inmate copied cell keys from memory

A YOUNG offenders' unit has been forced to spend thousands of pounds changing locks after an inmate with a photographic memory copied a vital set of master keys.

The inmate at Castington Young Offenders' Institute, Northumberland, who is believed to come from a family of locksmiths, memorised the shape and size of the keys after seeing them for only a few seconds. It is believed that he then fashioned the copies from a plastic mirror.

The alarm was raised when a spot check uncovered high-quality copies of at least three keys hidden in his cell. As soon as they were uncovered managers of the unit ordered a

complete change of locks in order to quash any fears of a break-out.

A spokesperson for the Prison Service said: "A key compromise has taken place at the prison. It has now been dealt with and all the security precautions necessary have been taken."

Gary Eckersall, vice-chairman of the Master Locksmiths Association, said: "To just have a quick look at a key and then make a copy would be very difficult."

No one at Castington would comment on the cost of replacing the locks, but a Prison Service spokesperson said security measures would be taken to prevent it occurring again.



Top of the class: Vic Ecclestone, winner of the Disney teacher of the year award, with ballerina Dorcey Russell

Photograph: Tim Anderson

'It's standards that matter'

By Ben Russell
Education Correspondent

FORMER teacher of the year Vic Ecclestone had to create a new job title to carry on his work to raise standards in one of Britain's most deprived council estates.

Mr Ecclestone, a full-time special needs teacher at Hartcliffe School in Bristol, took up the specially created post of head of extra-mural studies, working with pupils to bring sport and the arts to the comprehensive and its neighbouring primary schools.

Thanks to his efforts, children on the tough estate were given access to groups such as the Royal Ballet and the Welsh National Opera, through a range of extra-curricular activities which have helped produce a dramatic rise in GCSE pass rates.

Mr Ecclestone, who has taken a year's leave to help set up an educational charity bringing arts projects to primary schools in Bristol, was named Disney teacher of the year in recognition of his efforts.

Yesterday he welcomed plans to promote classroom "superteachers", but said giving teachers the time to promote high standards was more important than money. He said: "In my case it was not the money so much as being able to make time available to do the work."

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Schröder victory leaves Kohl smarting

By Imre Karacs
in Bonn

RATTLED by his party's heavy defeat in Sunday's Lower Saxony elections, Chancellor Helmut Kohl angrily rejected suggestions yesterday that he should abandon his attempt to gain a fifth term of office.

"I am it," he curtly replied, when asked if the Christian Democrats had a candidate strong enough to take on the opposition's newly-acclaimed champion, Gerhard Schröder. Mr Schröder was officially endorsed by the leadership of the Social Democrats yesterday after scoring the party's biggest victory in his region.

With 48 per cent of the votes, up nearly 4 per cent, the SPD secured an absolute majority in the Hanover assembly. The results of the Christian Democrats, with just under 36 per cent, were virtually unchanged. "This is a very disappointing election result for us," Chancellor Kohl conceded.

He had made 11 campaign appearances in Lower Saxony, in the forlorn hope of spiking Mr Schröder's attempt at securing the SPD nomination. The strategy clearly backfired. "Because he turned it into a primary, Helmut Kohl determined the outcome of this election," Mr Schröder said.

The rematch will take place on 27 September, when Chancellor Kohl faces the voters' scrutiny in elections to the Bundestag. His challenger, Mr Schröder, is lean, 14 years younger and enjoys a popularity rating twice as high as Mr Kohl's. The SPD are about 6 per cent ahead of the Christian Democrats.

The omens are not good for

the incumbent. "Kohl must come up with something," said Ingo Friedrich, deputy chairman of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian sister of the Chancellor's party.

But other leaders of the Christian bloc closed ranks, arguing that it would be suicidal to ditch Mr Kohl at so late a stage. No senior figure in the party is expected to make an open challenge, but continued talk of Mr Kohl's vulnerability against an opponent he failed to anticipate will not help his cause.

Mr Schröder, meanwhile, was busy setting out his store in Bonn yesterday. True to form, he dropped one small bombshell on the first day in his new role, warning the Greens not to count on a place in government, should he win. His antipathy to the Greens is legendary. But, as he admitted, the SPD cannot expect to win enough votes in September to govern alone.

In Lower Saxony, Mr Schröder took votes off every party, a feat he will hope to repeat on the national stage. He pledged to fight for the middle ground in politics, the same spot currently occupied by the Christian Democrats. "We're talking about a political programme which embraces both business and social responsibility," he declared after his triumph. "It has to be anchored in the centre."

While he battles in the "new middle", the left flank will be defended by Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD's party chairman, who gave up his ambition to run against Mr Kohl after being confronted with the magnitude of Mr Schröder's victory. Time will tell whether this combination will prove to be a dream ticket or, from the SPD's point of view, the stuff of nightmares.



A Serb policeman attacks an ethnic Albanian who joined thousands in Pristina, capital of Kosovo province, to protest over recent bloodshed

Photograph: AP

Serb police crush protest in Kosovo

By Andrew Gumbel

SERBIAN police charged into crowds of protesting Albanians in the capital of the southern province of Kosovo yesterday, knocking down scores of people with heavy clubs and water cannon in a brutal follow-up to a spate of killings over the weekend.

Despite international appeals for calm, the Serbian authorities appeared determined to silence by force all dissent in the Albanian-majority province. The offices of the Albanian-language newspaper

Koha Ditore were raided and its editor, the respected Albanian rights campaigner Veton Surroi, was beaten up. Unconfirmed reports suggested there had also been exchanges of gunfire.

Yesterday's demonstration in Pristina, attended by tens of thousands of people, followed a weekend of police searches and armed confrontations across the province, particularly the Drenica region, in which at least 16 Albanians and four Serb policemen were shot dead. The past few days have seen some of the most serious

unrest since the Serbian authorities stripped Kosovo of its autonomous status in 1989, raising fears in the international community of an open armed conflict in which the Albanians, despite their overwhelmingly superior numbers, are sure to be the big losers.

Kosovo was the issue on which the present Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, built his career - removing autonomy for the Albanians as a way of stirring up Serbian nationalism, as the province is home to some of the most holy sites of the Serbian Orthodox

Church. It has remained an excuse to deflect attention from Mr Milosevic's political failings in Serbia and the rest of the former Yugoslavia, particularly since the emergence of a new armed element in the Albanian opposition known as the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The KLA began openly claiming responsibility for the killing of Serbian policemen and Albanian "collaborators" last November, after months of dark rumours and conspiracy theories. Its actions have not only radicalised the conflict with the Serbs, but have poi-

soned political debate among the Albanians whose leadership has traditionally pursued a policy of non-violence.

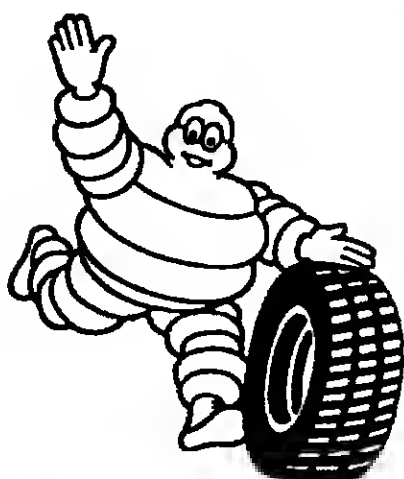
Since the end of the war in Bosnia, Western governments have been trying to use the threat of continuing sanctions against Serbia as a lever with which to exact concessions on Kosovo and a return to some kind of autonomy. But the paradox is that Mr Milosevic and his cronies cannot afford to cede ground since Kosovo is one of the only cards they have to play to avoid political annihilation.

The Albanians, meanwhile, are trapped in a paradox of their own. Kosovo can have no future as an autonomous province without fruitful dialogue with Belgrade - for economic as well as political reasons. But no leader in the current climate is going to advocate dialogue.

Indeed, for the past six years the Albanians have been developing a parallel power structure, organising their own schools and hospitals and pretending that the Serbs - including a 45,000-strong police force - are not there at all.

Michelin Guide consecrates chef with a foot in two kitchens

By John Lichfield
in Paris



Inflated figure: The tubby old Bibendum, good for 100 years

IS IT possible to cook, beautifully, in two kitchens at once? Yes, says the Michelin Guide. The little red bible of gastronomy broke, reluctantly, with 60 years of its own history yesterday and awarded two sets of three stars, its highest accolade, to one chef for two restaurants 600 miles apart.

Alain Ducasse, 41, acknowledged star of a new generation of cooks, became the first person to win six stars since the legendary "Mother" Brazier in the 1930s. His double consecration, for his restaurant in the 16th arrondissement in Paris and the Hotel Louis XV in Monte Carlo, is recognition by the guide of the managerial, super-star trend in haute cuisine. Yesterday *Le Monde* said the guide, after refusing to do so last year, had acknowledged that the future belonged to the "consultant chef",

the "designer" or food "couturier" travelling from kitchen to kitchen. Michelin had, in effect, abandoned the myth that the chef must be "both composer and pianist".

Not quite. The guide also gave three stars, for the first time, to two restaurants whose chefs still get their hands covered in flour. Pierre Gagnaire, who became the first chef to go bankrupt running a three-star restaurant three years ago, has regained three stars for his new place in Paris. The 33-year-old Poncelet twins, Jacques and Laurent, won three stars for their restaurant, Le Jardin des Sens, in Montpellier, bringing the number of three-star restaurants in France to 21, the highest total yet.

"We started in 1988 without a penny. For a few months we even did the washing up," said Jacques Poncelet, who becomes with his brother, the youngest three-star chef. The Michelin Guide, featuring this year the new slim-line Michelin man, or

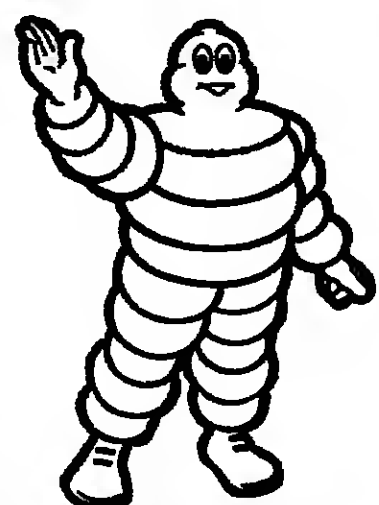
Bibendum, on his 100th anniversary, is France's most feared gastronomic publication. It refuses to discuss or explain its judgements, shaped by reader recommendations and the findings of its 80 shadow inspectors.

There is, inevitably, something of the food-political about its pronouncements. Apart from official consecration of the peripatetic, couturier-chef, the significant development this year is the equal honours given to the stars of the classical, wonderful-sauce-with-everything French approach and more adventurous, or heretical, chefs, like Mr Gagnaire, open to foreign influences and ingredients. He lost face and fortune when his restaurant in St Euzanne went into liquidation in 1995. Yesterday he said he had "lost everything, been driven from my home town, suffered insults and ironies, but managed to start all over again to express my culinary philosophy".

As *Le Monde* pointed out, the influence of traditional French cuisine is in "retreat" all over the world. Terence Conran, the British furniture and restaurant magnate, plans to confront France on its home turf by opening a restaurant in Paris this year.

In reply to these challenges the guide has endorsed two separate approaches, usually seen as incompatible. By re-honouring Mr Gagnaire, the Michelin is endorsing a more open "globalist" cooking style. By doubly consecrating Mr Ducasse it has freed him, *Le Monde* predicts, to export his talents to America and elsewhere to re-establish the reputation of the classically French tradition.

If none of that means anything to you, or you see no reason to spend £100 on a single meal, the guide is still worth buying or borrowing. It contains 458 restaurants in the *bib gourmand* category, where you can eat good regional food from £7 a head.



Slim line: The new, more svelte symbol wheeled out by Michelin

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Hardline Hindus close to poll victory in India

By Peter Popham
in Delhi

SONIA GANDHI'S epic 30,000-mile campaign has saved her party, Congress, from disappearing down the electoral plughole, but the Hindu nationalist BJP and its allies have established themselves as the pre-eminent force in Indian politics.

That is the tentative conclusion being drawn 12 hours after counting began yesterday

morning in India's gargantuan general election.

On present trends the BJP will, as in the election of 1996, emerge as the largest party but without an overall majority. In 1996, it formed the government but fell 13 days later for want of coalition partners.

This time it has struck unprincipled but clever deals with some regional parties, and has manifested a new determination which means it is certain to fight harder to hang on to

power. It is therefore safe to predict that Atal Behari Vajpayee, the BJP's 72-year-old member for Lucknow, who led the country during those 13 days in 1996, will be sworn in for a second term as prime minister in the next couple of days.

If the BJP either defies predictions and wins outright or succeeds in putting together a stable coalition government, the election of 1998 will turn out to have been a watershed. Hindu nationalists have been

around for a century, and the BJP has been an increasingly formidable political force since the 1980s.

If they can now form a stable government they will have a chance to demonstrate that they have the discipline and coherence to replace Congress as India's natural party of government.

As "secularism" was one of the most important pillars of independent India, the *Hindutva*, or "cultural nationalism", of the

BJP has always been anathema to the Indian establishment, threatening to split the nation into mutually antagonistic tribes. That fear remains.

As one BJP enthusiast put it artlessly yesterday: "It's time the real Indians were given an advantage over the foreigners here" - meaning not only 150 million Muslims but large and ancient minorities of Sikhs, Parsis and Christians, too.

The high-water mark of rampant "cultural nationalism"

was in 1992, when BJP leaders were keenly involved in the demolition of a mosque at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh which stood on a sacred Hindu site.

Since then, however, and especially in the present campaign, they have moderated their language and aims, striking alliances with Sikhs, Tamils and old-fashioned Socialists. Their primary constituency has been disaffected, high-caste Hindus, particularly Brahmins, in the countryside, and small

shopkeepers and other members of the lower middle class in the cities.

But as their claim to power grows in plausibility, more and more class voters have been tempted to give them a chance.

Five years of a stable BJP government, it is argued, could hardly be worse than the chronic instability of the past nine years, which have seen only one government complete its five-year term.



Sonia Gandhi: Went on the hustings to save Congress

Famine threat in N Korea

ROME (Reuters) - The UN World Food Programme said yesterday that it was looking into a warning by famine-hit North Korea that it could run out of grain within two weeks.

A spokesman for the Rome-based aid agency said WFP had shipments of 98,000 tonnes of grain from January to March for the 4.7 million people it has targeted. However, that leaves another 19 million North Koreans who could go hungry if Pyongyang's warning is true.

The official Korean Central News Agency earlier said that grain rations were cut in January and February but this had not stopped a drain on supplies. North Korea has been hit in the past two years by floods and droughts which have devastated the countryside, leading to reports of widespread deaths from starvation and large-scale emergency food relief from overseas.

A spokesman for North Korea's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee said that at the start of the year, North Korea's total stock of grain was 167,000 tonnes for its 22 million people. "With this stock, 300 grams were distributed to each person on a daily average in January and 200 grams in February. Even if 100 grams are distributed in March, the stock will run out in mid-March."



Sweetness and light: The pop star Madonna poses on a sofa during a presentation of her new album *Ray of Light* in Madrid yesterday. On her latest album the former material girl softens her image and expresses herself as a retro "Candy Perfume Girl". Photograph: AP

Students protest as US envoy meets Suharto

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Dozens of riot police were deployed when about 600 college students staged a noisy but peaceful protest against the government yesterday.

The protest was staged as former US vice-president Walter Mondale arrived for talks with President Suharto to over Indonesia's economic crisis. Mr Mondale, who is acting as a special envoy of President Clinton, is expected to urge Mr Suharto to stick with sweeping reforms promised under a \$43bn (£27m) IMF package. In Washington, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin denied Mr Mondale was sent to Indonesia to ask Mr Suharto to quit.

Vatican inquiry into abuse

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - The Vatican yesterday launched an investigation into allegations that the former Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer, sexually molested young boys. The affair has threatened to split Austria's Catholic Church, and last Friday Austria's bishops issued a statement saying the allegations were essentially true. Groer was removed from his post in 1995.

Australia in weapons move

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Australia said yesterday it planned to draft a global treaty which would force nations to get rid of biological weapons. Foreign minister Alexander Downer said Iraq's violation of biological weapons conventions highlighted the need for an effective system to detect and take action on breaches. Australia's former ambassador to the UN, Richard Butler, is in charge of the weapons inspection operation in Iraq.

Cat comes off the menu

HANOI (Reuters) - The Vietnamese authorities said yesterday that they were ordering cat-meat restaurants to close and outlawing exports of cats to China because of growing problems with rats. Officials said bumper harvests meant the rodent population was booming, and that people should switch to eating rat instead of cat or snake. In Vietnam, cat and snake - both rat predators - are considered delicacies.

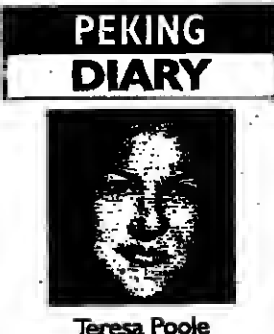
Welcome to the wheelclamps

THE wheelclamp has finally reached Peking - and about time too. The hope is that this will put the brakes on the more dastardly tactics used by the traffic police.

Last June, for instance, the *Independent's* modest run-around disappeared from outside one of the city's big hotels. Pavement hawkers quickly confirmed that a police pick-up had made off with the car. But how to find it? There was no phone number to call, and no central depot. So there was no alternative to touring the city, from one police car pound to another, hoping to spot the vehicle. Four hours later, the car turned up - dumped by the police in the car park of a four-star hotel.

An even more fiendish strategy was introduced late last year, probably because the gridlocked city streets were becoming increasingly tiresome for police pick-up trucks. Returning to the car, laden with shopping, one found the windscreens plastered with stuck-on notices. These informed the hapless car-owner that the traffic police had removed the front and rear number plates, which were being held for ransom at some distant office.

So the wheelclamp is to be welcomed. At least they have to come to you from now on. According to the Peking Traffic Control Bureau, however, the clamp is still in its trial



Teresa Poole

phase because of unspecified "minor mechanical flaws in its design". For the time being, the most reliable strategy in dealing with the traffic police remains the oldest - opening one's wallet and extracting large numbers of used notes.

WINTER lays low most Pekingers at some point with a bout of flu. So I was fortunate to receive a visit recently from Zhao Yong, a geologist from the State Seismological Bureau, who has turned his attentions to curing the common cold. He and his doctor wife have invented a contraption which, they claim, can sort out sore throats, runny noses, and feverish headaches.

The new machine is basically a plug-in red baseball cap. One puts it on, plugs it into the mains, and a thermoelectric ceramic plate embedded in the top of the cap starts to warm up. Under this has been placed

a sponge soaked in a pungent potion, a sweet-smelling liquid of ledebouriella root, uplun-rum root, honeysuckle flower, and forsythia fruit. One then sits back and gently cools the top of one's head for up to an hour. "When you watch television, the effect is the best," said Mr Zhao.

According to Chinese medicine, a cold is caused by an "exopathogenic wind" getting into one's body. "Because it is light, it travels up and gathers in your head," said Mr Zhao. Heating up the head with the potion speeds up the circulation and opens the capillaries, so that the "wind" can escape.

If it was this simple, why had no one thought of this before? "That's a very good question," said Mr Zhao. "With the development of science and technology, people tend to worship medicine and injections. Maybe our cap looks simple, but the components are not simple at all."

The cap is now on offer for £15 in at least one department store, but sales are disappointing. I suggest that the secret to commercial success might be as a baldness cure. "Yes, it stimulates the circulation in the scalp, so can help the hair grow," said Mr Zhao.

NO ONE ever said journalism in an authoritarian, one-party, media-controlled country would be easy. But it is at least becoming increasingly prof-

itable. The British Council recently organised a press conference to publicise the arrival in Peking this week of the National Theatre which is staging *Othello* as part of the "Britain in China" year. It is all part of the warming relations between London and Peking.

The *Independent's* Chinese assistant duly turned up for the briefing, in the company of about 20 journalists from local publications.

A press kit was handed out, with fulsome details about the theatre company and the play. But the best going-home present was not revealed until the end when the journalists were each handed a white envelope. A theatre ticket, wondered my assistant? Even better. A crisp 100 yuan (£8) note - not to be sniffed at in a city where the average weekly wage is little more than that.

Inquiries were made to the British Embassy as to whether this was British taxpayers' money being used to buy favourable coverage of *Othello* in the local press. Absolutely not, was the reply. The press conference had been jointly arranged by the China Performing Arts Agency, and it had secretly organised the bungs for Chinese hacks. Such pay-offs are routine nowadays within the Chinese media, but are rarely offered to foreign journalists. So when the office is strapped for cash, one's Chinese assistant is duly dispatched to do the rounds.

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Russia rejects use of force in Iraq deal

By David Osborne
in New York

BRITAIN found itself deep in diplomatic mud at the United Nations last night as Russia and other countries raised objections to a Security Council resolution aimed at strengthening the weapons inspections deal brokered a week ago by Secretary General Kofi Annan with Iraq.

Continued deadlock in the Council could have serious consequences for Britain and the United States in any future confrontations with Iraq. Work was continuing on a draft text last night, and some diplomats held out the hope that a resolution could be adopted today.

As drafted by Britain, with clear encouragement from the US, initial versions of the resolution were designed to impart new solidity to Mr Annan's agreement. This promises UN inspectors access to eight presidential sites in Iraq so long as they are chaperoned by diplomats. More importantly, London and Washington are seeking a resolution that would be a stage-setter for instant military retaliation should Saddam Hussein violate the Annan agreement. In that regard, however, their shared enthusiasm for a resolution may now be about to backfire.

When Mr Annan departed for Iraq, Washington calculated that whether or not it succeeded, his mission would make any future military strikes against Baghdad easier to justify. Judging by events in the Security Council, the opposite may turn out to be true.

With Russia in the lead, several Council members were still attempting last night to insert wording that would make it clear no action could be taken to punish Iraq for violating the Annan agreement without additional consultations occurring first in the Council. It was not certain yesterday whether Washington could accept that military action be preceded by Council deliberations.



Death wail: A woman mourns the child of a relative at a funeral held for 43 children in Baghdad yesterday. The Iraqi authorities blame the deaths of a shortage of medicine and food caused by UN sanctions. Photograph: Yannis Behrakis

US dreams of ways to get rid of Saddam

By Patrick Cockburn
in Amman

THERE were several hundred of them and they were terrified. They were soldiers and civilians belonging to the CIA-backed Iraqi National Congress, the umbrella group for the Iraqi opposition, and they were preparing to run for their lives after 120 members of their organisation were slaughtered when Saddam Hussein launched a surprise attack into the previously safe haven of Kurdistan 18 months ago.

I did not quite realise I was watching the débâcle of the most ambitious and ultimately disastrous attempt to overthrow the Iraqi leader. It involved the CIA and other foreign intelligence services trying to use Kurdistan to launch a resistance war against Baghdad while supporting a military conspiracy against Saddam Hussein. Both failed disastrously with the death of at least 300 Iraqis involved.

Now it may happen again. From all over the US Congress come voices calling for Bill Clinton to try to oust the Iraqi government. Senator Bob Kerrey, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, says: "I would first of all speak to the 22 million Iraqis who have been terrorised by this dictator and say: 'We are going to liberate you.'" Senator John McCain, a Republican on the Armed Services Committee, said: "I would say it's our goal to remove him from power because, as long as he's there, we're facing this enormous challenge."

Few of the bellicose Senators who want to oust Saddam Hussein seem aware the US made a big effort to do just that in 1994-96 with disastrous results. It is a superficially attractive idea. Somehow the belief has never died in the West that the Arab world sees frequent military coups. But the era of successful military conspiracies was the Fifties and Sixties. In the last quarter-century few have succeeded. Security services are too pervasive. Military elites are too comfortable or frightened to take the risk.

This is true above all of Iraq. If there is one political art Saddam Hussein has mastered it is his own survival. A savage system of tribal checks and balances prevents anybody accumulating enough power to launch a successful conspiracy. Almost all have been crushed before a single tank rolled.

The outcome of the latest crisis makes it far more difficult for any foreign backed resistance to get off the ground. The Iraqis and the Arabs see the agreement brokered by the UN as a victory for Saddam. They believe it is a sign US resolve to overthrow him is full of doubts. For instance, the US has always made it clear it wants a coup, not an insurrection. It does not want Iraq to break up.

The CIA knew the difficulty of their task when President Bush first directed them to get rid of the Iraqi regime. But with Iraq having replaced the Soviet Union as the Americans' chief demon the agency was in no position to say no. Its failure to accomplish anything attracted little publicity in the US.

There is a measure of absurdity in the projects put forward in Washington. Paul Wolfowitz, former senior State Department official, says mutinous detachments of the Iraqi army should be invited to march to safe havens in Kurdistan or the marshes of southern Iraq. In fact, the Kurdish mountains have been unsafe for Saddam's opponents ever since the INC were slaughtered or fled in 1996. There never were safe havens in the south. All defecting Iraqi soldiers would find is a few guerrilla bands fighting to survive in the swamps.

Iran calls for more EU links

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The Iranian President, Mohammad Khatami, yesterday called for better ties with Italy, saying relations should be based on "respect and mutual understanding", Iranian radio reported.

During a meeting with the Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, President Khatami expressed regret that years of animosity with the West have deprived Iran of the opportunity to better understand that part of the world.

"We would like to join hands and enter a century in which human ties are based on respect and mutual understanding," he said.

Mr Dini, who began his visit at the weekend, is the first Western cabinet official to travel to Iran since the European Union lifted its ban last week on high-level visits. EU foreign ministers said several encouraging developments in Iran, including the election in May of Mr Khatami, required a positive response toward the country.

The new EU position differs sharply from United States policy, which sees Iran as a rogue state that must be isolated. US sanctions ban large investments in Iran by any country.

Nigeria to escape sanctions

By Rupert Cornwell

NIGERIA is again likely to escape the imposition of sanctions by fellow Commonwealth states in response to human rights abuses by the regime in Lagos.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), meeting in London, will today ponder whether to convert Nigeria's suspension into full-scale expulsion and impose sanctions.

The latest deadline is October, the date by which the regime of General Sani Abacha has promised to restore democracy. In practice, the eight-nation CMAG is split — between Britain and Canada who insist sanctions should have been imposed long ago, and members like Malaysia and Zimbabwe who feel the human rights weapon could one day be turned against them.

The most realistic outcome to be expected from the talks, British officials say, is agreement to send a team to Nigeria before the elections to spell out the Commonwealth's disapproval. Whatever the Commonwealth comes up with could be trumped by General Abacha, if he manages to line up all Nigeria's parties behind him as single candidate for the October elections. In that case he would stay in power, claim a plebiscite to boot, and leave CMAG even more at a loss over what to do.

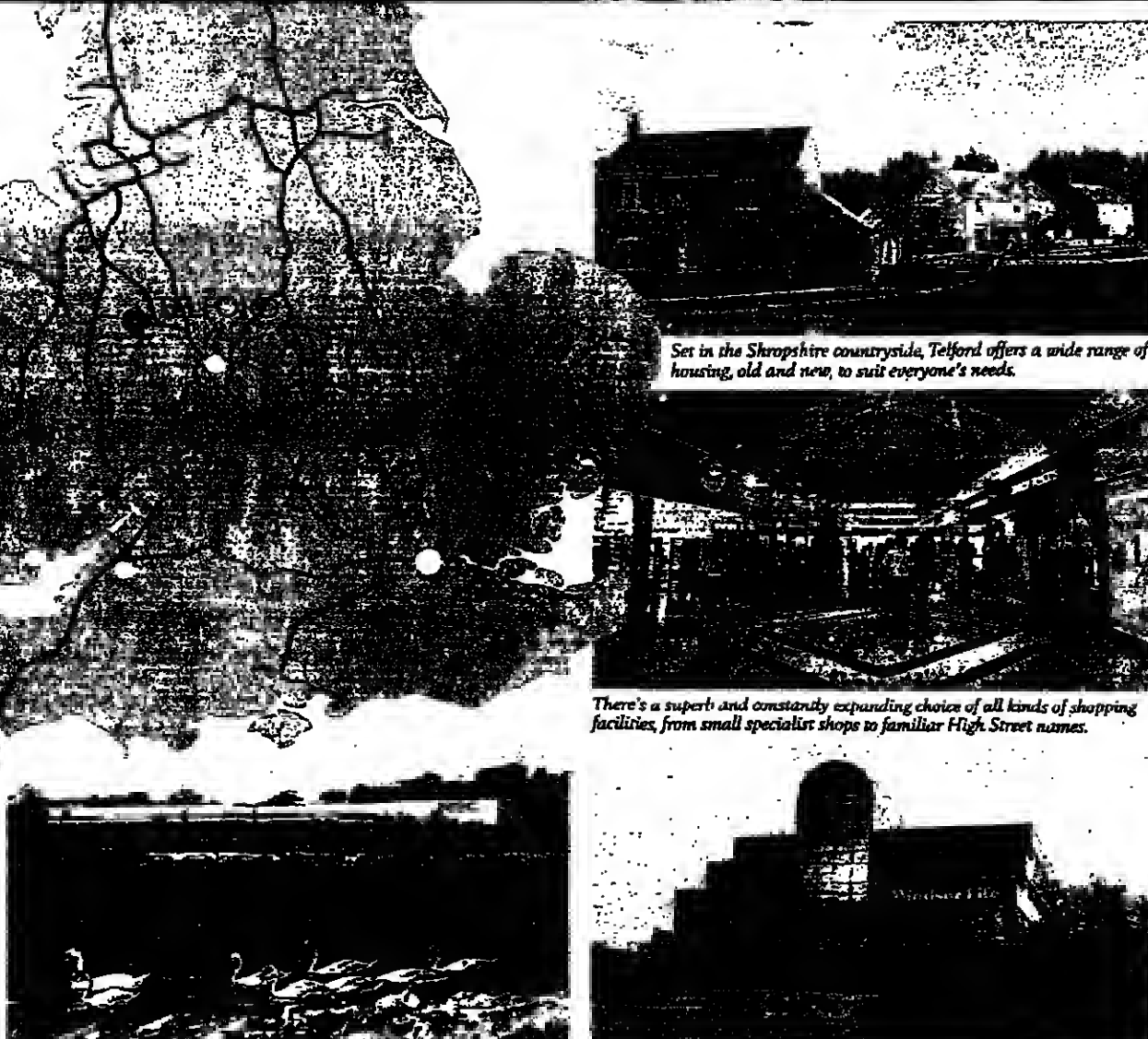
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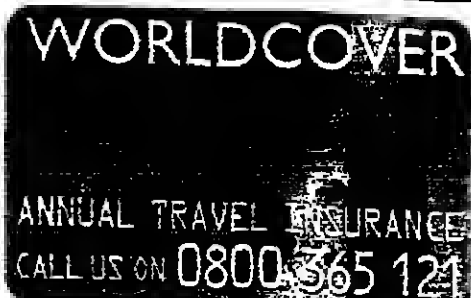
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Family man: Tom Robinson was famously homosexual, then changed his mind. He and Sue Brearley had a baby son in 1990

Photograph: Camera Press

Glad not to be gay

Coming out 'in reverse' provokes shock and anger in the homosexual community, writes Vanessa Thorpe

STAFF at the gay men's magazine *Attitude* are preparing for an onslaught of calls from puzzled readers. The latest issue of the glossy, thrusting title has thrown down a challenge to the precepts of gay culture. On the first page is a discordant statement from the magazine's erstwhile acting editor, Ian Tucker. "I just woke up one morning," he writes, "and realised I was straight as a pussy."

Now this is the kind of sudden proclamation of proud heterosexuality which raises a lot of eyebrows in the gay world. "We can see, even from the reaction so far, that people are intrigued by what Ian wrote and what they thought he was saying," says Adam Materna, the man now temporarily at the helm of the magazine. "For some gay men, when they hear someone whom they imagined was part of the gay scene saying they are not homosexual, it shocks them."

Ideally, he stresses, no one should ever be "chided" for what they are. "But it does happen sometimes, perhaps because the gay community is a bit closed and incestuous."

The impact of Mr Tucker's backwards version of publicly coming out, set as it is within the pages of the publication dedicated to gay culture, is revealing. Not for him the cry of "bravo" that

greeted a gay outing. Cold lips and sneers from his gay contemporaries are more likely, especially if they are the kind of men who still contemptuously refer to heterosexuals as "breeders".

"Ever since the fairly recent introduction of the idea of the modern homosexual, such a person has been defined by his rejection of marriage and of sex with women," says Mark Simpson, the controversial editor of *Anti-Gay*, the 1996 collection of essays, and someone who has recently disowned the label "gay".

Beyond the glamorous world of amorphous

of yourself," he says. "I don't really believe in sexual identities, although I think people find them socially useful."

Even within the conservative British establishment sexuality is secretly mutable, he argues. "Look at life in prisons, in the armed services, or in life public schools that most judges have been to," he says. He goes on to quote the old naval rubric, "It is never queer unless you are tied to the pier," which means that gay acts carried out while at sea do not "count".

Like other formerly gay men and women,

ical stance. Anyone who starts to see a man is potentially a traitor. Theresa Flynn, a 30-year-old HIV counsellor, has suffered in this way. She went out with a woman for six years and is now looking for a relationship with a man. "I started to realise I wasn't finding any women at parties that I was attracted to," she says. "I started to think about men and their more muscular, bigger bodies."

Theresa did nothing for a year and then confided in a straight friend who unfortunately blurted it out. "I was upset. It had all come out back to front and my gay friends were confused because they had met me as a lesbian and never questioned it. One of them hurt me by saying she saw me in a completely different way now and would not feel so easy talking to me."

Theresa realised she had expected lesbians to be more accepting of changing sexuality. "I felt I was being pushed out of a group," she recalls. "I was very linked into the lesbian and gay scene and suddenly I had no one to go out with."

The embattled nature of life for male and female gays will mean for some time that a decision to come out publicly deserves to be applauded. Channel 4, for example, plans to dedicate an entire evening of programming on 25 April to a celebration of the act of coming out. The centrepiece of the schedule will be the first terrestrial screening in Britain of the famous "Coming Out" episode of *Ellen*, the American sitcom. Such festivities may well be justified, but meanwhile those who come out in reverse feel there is nobody with whom to mark their own commitment to a new-found identity.

'Men may turn to women, frankly, because those relationships stand a better chance. If you want something stable and nurturing, then everything points to making a woman the centre of your life'

sexuality peopled by rock stars like David Bowie and even Tom Robinson, the question of who you sleep with is still a crucial part of how people view you, Simpson complains. He feels he no longer wants to play by such strict rules. Everything is defined too negatively, he says.

"Who you don't want to have sex with becomes the biggest part of how you are defined. If you become gay, you swap to defining your identity around not sleeping with women and you end up with just as much of a cartoonist's idea

Mark Simpson's own rejection of the term has sprung partly from the hope of finding family life. "Men may turn to women, frankly, because those relationships stand a better chance. If you want something stable and nurturing then everything points to making a woman the centre of your life rather than a man."

Women who back away from the gay label often experience the same shock and distress from lesbian friends. The criticism is often worse when those involved view lesbianism as a polit-

It all adds up to a culture of coupons

THE table was booked for six under the name of Wilcox. The caller to the cosy afterman's restaurant in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, explained that the party would be taking advantage of special money-off vouchers from a national newspaper which meant their dinner would cost only £5 a head.

So imagine the surprise of the restaurant's staff when the "Wilcoxes" turned out to be the Princess Royal and her husband, Captain Timothy Laurence.

The couple, who brought with them the requisite two tokens but had not filled in their name and address "for security reasons", treated their friends to curried parsnip soup followed by a choice between venison sausages or a fish dish. Had they chosen from the standard menu, £5 would have bought each diner a starter or a third of a main course.

The story, reported at the weekend, allows us a fascinating glimpse of life behind the closed doors of Gatcombe Park: Princess Anne eagerly scours her morning paper, scissors in hand.

She spots a coupon. Two for the price of one on Eurstar! Snip, snip. And what's

me on an almost monthly basis to explain about all the different discount schemes and offers I've been missing out on. Naturally I agree to anything that's offered to me which might save me money, and I've agreed to so many different things in the past year that I now have no idea what I've agreed to.

I'm a member of Friends & Family, and I think I might even be a member of something called Friends & Family Plus, although it's possible I imagined that.

I have a feeling I've also got something called Premier Line, but I've no idea what it's for. I think it means I can pay my bill over the phone, but I've never tried to do it.

And then there are my Barclaycard Profile Points. Every month my statement tells me how many more points I've earned and what my running total is. I also have a glossy brochure showing me all the fabulous gifts I can get by cashing in my points. I've worked out that I get roughly a penny of gift value for every pound I spend, but this doesn't prevent me from feeling an avaricious tingle of anticipation every time I flash my plastic.

Will I ever cash my points

TIM HULSE

this? A cut-price flight to Ireland! Snip, snip. And what about this? Ten pence off a packet of Persil! Snip, snip. And so on.

And why not? It may well be the case that the combined income of the Princess Royal and her husband is £273,000, but what the restaurant episode shows is that just like the rest of us, the Princess can't resist a bargain.

I know I can't. Nestling in my kitchen at home is a rather nice cafeteria which I obtained by collecting coupons from packets of Silk Cut. For many years I'd managed to live without the benefit of a cafeteria, indeed had lived quite happily without one, give or take the odd unfortunate dinner party moment involving a real coffee bore.

But as soon as I saw I could have one for free, a cafeteria suddenly became a necessity. The fact that I've barely used it in the three years it's been in my possession hasn't diminished in any way my satisfaction in owning it.

And then there's British Telecom. A friendly BT salesperson who can't pronounce my surname properly rings

in? Probably not. Perhaps the only surprising thing about the Princess Anne story is that she actually used her tokens. Most of us clip our coupons and collect our points but nine times out of 10 we never bother to do anything with them.

I once bought *The Sun* and the *News of the World* every day for about a month, religiously cutting out my tokens for free air tickets. Then when I'd collected them, I looked at the small print and it seemed a bit complicated, so I threw them away.

But Princess Anne is made of sterner stuff. They say the Royal Family should be setting an example, and in this instance she has undoubtedly been a model to us all. To my mind, she's right up there with Phil Calvert, the man who discovered last January that by buying 942lbs of bananas at his local Tesco he could make a profit of £25.12 on his Clubcard. Now there was a man who was really prepared to work for a bargain.

Me, I've got a Tesco Clubcard too, and I'm fully aware of all its benefits. It's just that I've never bothered to use it.

It was like molten gold: a wave of perfect love swept through me

REVELATIONS: SAMANTHA BOND

The time: 1991
The place: West Middlesex Hospital
The person: Samantha Bond, actor

GIVING birth to my child was excessively painful. I just went into uterine contraction so the labour was incredibly fast - just an hour and half I can remember lying on the bed and feeling that my spine was slowly being pulled apart. All I could picture was myself as a small child peeling away the bark of the white wood in the middle; that's the image I had of what the pain was doing to my body. There was no time for my husband to help me and although I attended the classes and knew how to do breathing exercises, they rely on contractions coming and going. So I was on my own and, screaming a lot, I was very, very frightened - I didn't believe that I could live through that

level of agony. I was expecting my heart to stop. My husband was wonderfully reassuring and comforting, but because I was so afraid, his main job was to keep my senses alert.

When I talk to friends about to have babies who are terrified of words like episiotomy, I tell them they just won't care. If someone had said to me, "We're going to take you leg off," I would have shouted back: "FINE, CHOP IT OFF - JUST STOP THE PAIN!" But afterwards none of it mattered because I had reached the other side and held this beautiful child.

I remember the midwife announcing that the baby had arrived - "It's a Molly." I was wheeled upstairs and my husband went off to make all the phone calls. There was something magical about the ward; all the lights were dimmed. I remember looking at this angelically beautiful face, she was one of the most beautiful things I

had ever seen. She had been placed in this plastic crib beside me and I just lay there staring at her. At about 5am, I had a sensation which was like somebody had poured molten gold into my body. It started at my feet and this wave of the most pure and perfect love swept up through me. By the time it got to my head I was crying and this was all for this little thing I didn't even know. The passion was huge and violent and that feeling has never ever gone away. I'm constantly astounded at the size of the emotion I feel for my children.

Before Molly was born, my stage fright was getting appalling. When I got on stage I would have a rush of adrenaline, everybody gets it. Normally after the first night it becomes more controllable and as long as I could ride the wave I was still in charge. Gradually the fear stopped working for me and was replaced by a huge, cold, stark white terror. Eight-



Samantha Bond: Changed by motherhood

teen months after finishing my last stage work, I was still having recurring nightmares that somebody was going to make me do it again. My fear had completely overwhelmed me. I went to play *Rosaland* in *As You Like It* for the RSC just 11 weeks after Molly was born.

Going to up Stratford had been one of my greatest dreams but the miracle was that my stage fright had disappeared. Suddenly the terror was replaced by a rush of excitement. Becoming a mother had, of course, given me in a sense of proportion - but in a deeper

way, that gruelling labour had told my psyche that to feel so strongly about something as relatively unimportant as a stage appearance was ridiculous.

After my great wave of love for Molly, I often found myself crying over articles in the newspaper - before I would have just felt distressed. For my work, this is a bonus because as an actor I believe that emotions are my palette to pull up depending on what the role requires. I found all of my feelings were much more accessible; what is also incredible is that motherhood's crescendo of emotions never goes away or calms down.

Later in that season I played a mother, *Hermione* in *The Winter's Tale*, although I'd played them before, I am certain that performance was vastly informed by my personal experience. I knew the colossal love and what it must be like when somebody walks in and says: "Your son is dead." There is now a much more vulnerable side to me and my acting than there ever was before.

My children have helped me discover new bits of myself. I

didn't know how strong I could be for other people or how frightened for them, or how possessive. If anybody threatens my children I feel like a lioness. Molly was being bullied at school and the strength of my response to that situation was awesome. When my son Tom was three, he had appendicitis; it was very nearly peritonitis so he was in a lot of danger. We rushed him to hospital where they would cut him open. I would almost rather have performed the surgery myself than allow somebody else to do that to my child. It was the most strange feeling. I was in hospital with him for three of four days sleeping on a little bed beside him. All the time I was there, I didn't cry once. It was like what I imagine it must be like to be on speed: I was ultra alert, all my senses were functioning at 200 per cent. The staff were wonderful but finally we got him home and I put him in his own bed. I sat down and had a glass of wine to relax. I woke up a 3am and was violently sick. It must have been holding on so tightly for him, being there

for his every waking moment - that when I could finally let go everything came out in a rush.

I'm amazed that David Hare, a man, could have written *Amy's View*, this incredible play about the relationship between a mother and a daughter, and in particular how a mother's protectiveness can become interfering. At the end of Act Three, my character, Amy, says: "I knew what I was doing, I went in with my eyes open and it was my choice. I'm an adult and I'm allowed to make that choice." I think one of the most important things I can give my children is the right to be themselves. It is terribly hard and I will always want to be there guarding them. I get jittery at the thought of Molly even walking to school on her own. But one of the advantages of being an actor is that I'm good at disguises, so I'll follow them around until they're 27 - they'll never spot me.

Interview by Andrew G Marshall

'Amy's View' is at the Aldwych Theatre until 18 April.

Nigeria
to escape
sanctions

OVER
365 12

Out on a limb: the pain of Raynaud's

CURIOSER and curiousest, I remember thinking, as I sat outside a pub in Dorset on a gloriously hot August afternoon, watching my left hand turn first white, then blue, then a livid shade of purple.

Over the next few weeks, I grew accustomed to these abrupt attacks of numbness, which were invariably followed by dramatic displays of colour. But it was not until six months later that I discovered what lay behind them: I had Raynaud's, a painful and potentially debilitating circulatory disorder.

People with Raynaud's are highly sensitive to temperature changes, which cause spasms in the small arteries of the fingers and toes, cutting off blood supply to the extremities. Opening a fridge door, or picking up a cold drink – even in summertime – can be a sufficient trigger. With the tissues starved of blood, ulcers develop which, in severe cases, can lead to gangrene and amputation.

Early diagnosis and treatment are important, particularly for patients for whom Raynaud's is secondary to a rarer and more serious disease, scleroderma. Yet there is still a high degree of ignorance, according to the Raynaud's and Scleroderma Association, which has just launched a national campaign to raise awareness.

The campaign, accompanied by striking black and white posters featuring a pair of hands with icicles hanging off them, is partly aimed at determining the prevalence of Raynaud's. Some estimate that it affects about 10 million people – nine-tenths of them women – in Britain, albeit in a mild form in most cases.

Among GPs, according to Anne Mawdsley, director of the association, there is still some reluctance to take Raynaud's seriously. "Doctors are better than they were in the past, but mainly because patients are

asserting themselves more," she says.

My own experience, it seems, was fairly typical. The first specialist whom I saw warned me that my fingers would drop off if I wasn't careful, but said that all he could prescribe was a warm pair of gloves. A year on, under the care of a team at the Royal Free Hospital in London, I know better. Conventional drugs – namely vasodilators, which widen the arteries – can help, as can certain vitamins and supplements.

Only the symptoms can be treated, though. There is no cure for the condition, which is named after Maurice Raynaud, the French doctor who published a thesis about it in 1862. No cause has been identified either, although some believe that stress can be a factor.

Anne Mawdsley, who suffers from a particularly severe form of Raynaud's, described the pain that she experiences. "It's excruciating. It feels as if your fingers have been squeezed in a vice, or trapped in a car door. Picking up a milk bottle, or walking from one room to another, can be enough to shut the blood supply down."

For about 3,500 people in this country, Raynaud's is the first symptom of scleroderma, an autoimmune disease which affects the skin and internal organs, and can be fatal.

Warm hands are the often elusive goal for people with Raynaud's, but gloves alone are not sufficient. The association stresses the importance of keeping the rest of the body warm, and of eating hot food, taking regular exercise and using heating aids, such as hand warmers.

The Raynaud's and Scleroderma Association, 112 Crewe Road, Alsager, Cheshire, ST7 2JA, tel 01270 872776.

Kathy Marks

Dilemma for doctor at cusp of research

Jeremy Laurance talks to the man at the centre of the controversy over the MMR vaccine

"IF I AM wrong I will be a bad person because I will have raised this spectre. But I have to address the questions my patients put to me. My duty is to investigate their stories."

Dr Andrew Wakefield is a man under pressure. Last week he published research indicating a possible link between the MMR vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella and inflammatory bowel disease and autism. It is a finding that will have chimed with parents' deepest fears about the safety of exposing babies' developing immune systems to potentially toxic drugs. But it also threatens to destabilise carefully nurtured vaccination programmes which have saved millions of lives worldwide. That is a heavy responsibility, as Dr Wakefield knows. "I have thought about this every night for the last ten years. My children say 'Why do you do what you do, Daddy?' and I do not know what to say to them. It is a moral issue for me."

His story begins in Canada in the late 1980s, where he had been working as a transplant surgeon. He became dissatisfied with chopping out pieces of diseased bowel and wanted to know what triggered the disease process in the first place. One freezing night, drinking a pint of Guinness in a bar, he had an inspiration. What if inflammatory bowel disease was not a bowel disease at all, caused by bacteria in the gut, but a vascular disease caused by damage to the blood supply to the gut wall?

He returned to England "in something of a crisis" and set to work at the Royal Free Hospital, north London, to test his hypothesis. With his close colleague, Professor Roy Pounder, who has stood by him throughout their decade-long association, he demonstrated that the blood supply was indeed broken down by an insidious destructive process. They published the first of a series of papers in *The Lancet* in 1989, although their theory remains controversial.

The next question was what caused the blood vessels to break down. At the time there was a lot of interest in viruses in blood vessels. "I sat down with two volumes of a virology textbook and worked through it. I got to measles

virus and it described how it gets into the gut, causing ulcers and inflammation. You could have been reading an account of Crohn's disease [inflammatory bowel disorder]. It was very exciting."

That was in 1990 and the pair started looking for measles virus in bowel tissue taken from patients with Crohn's disease. They have been looking ever since.

In a paper in 1994 they claimed to have found it and said Crohn's disease was three times more common in people who had had measles vaccination. That study triggered a new rush of parents to Dr Wakefield's clinic claiming their children had developed symptoms of autism and bowel disorders shortly after MMR vaccination. The result was last week's paper.

Morality and science make uneasy bedfellows. When Dr Wakefield speaks of morality he refers to his duty to his patients. "We get these parents ringing up every day. They say 'My child has autism and bowel problems and we believe they are linked'. You have to do something for them. These are the people to whom we are answerable."

He admits this makes life difficult for public-health doctors whose corresponding duty is to care for populations, but it can't be helped. His patients come first.

Dr Wakefield, a reader in experimental gastroenterology, is not a crank. His research has been published in *The Lancet*, after being submitted to expert peer review. He has 12 co-authors on his latest paper and is regularly in-



invited to speak at international meetings on gastroenterology. Yet he has been vilified and his research has been attacked as flawed and inadequate. Even *The Lancet* was nervous about it, commissioning a highly sceptical commentary and deliberately omitting it

from its usual press release "to avoid being alarmist," according to a spokeswoman.

The Government moved swiftly to reassure parents, while the research team, from the Royal Free Hospital, emphasised that they remained in favour of immunisation.

One of Dr Wakefield's co-authors confided last week that he would prefer to work on the link between bowel disease and autism and leave aside the emotive question of the link with MMR for the sake of a quieter life.

That remark drew a stinging response from Dr Wakefield. "If they are uncomfortable they should look for a quieter life elsewhere. I can't do that."

The history of scientific advance is littered with individuals who held out against

major political and commercial interests. Think of smoking and cancer. But they are hugely outnumbered by those who believed they were on to something and whose hypotheses later died. Indeed, the *British Medical Journal* declared Dr Wakefield's hypothesis dead in an editorial published only six weeks ago.

If he is right about MMR, governments worldwide will have to rethink their vaccination policies, manufacturers will face a raft of compensation claims and hundreds of patients who have harboured suspicions about the safety of vaccinating young babies will feel vindicated.

If he is wrong, the consequences could be still more serious if vaccination rates fall and measles cases start to rise.



Eye of the storm: The claims by Dr Wakefield (below) have chimed with parents' fears about exposing babies' to potentially toxic drugs

Honestly officer, I've got auto-brewery syndrome



DR PHIL HAMMOND

DYSFUNCTIONAL Gut Syndrome – your questions answered.

What's that then? Irritable bowel syndrome with knobs on. In IBS you get pain, diarrhoea, constipation, wind, bloating and you might even pass some mucus...

Do you mind? I'm eating my breakfast.

...but never blood. The doctor either tells you you've

got irritable bowel straight out or you get on the old treadmill of blood tests, stool samples, steel tubes up the tail end and perhaps even the odd barium enema.

And then what happens?

You're told all the tests are normal and you've got an irritable bowel. It's very common there are millions like you, it's very miserable but it's not going to kill you. Treating the mind helps for some (hypnotherapy, psychotherapy, relaxation etc) but most doctors go straight for the bowel (fibre for constipation, anti-spasmodic drugs for pain, codeine for severe diarrhoea). Alas, this rarely gives complete relief and many patients end up giving up all drugs, which isn't a bad thing.

So they're just left to lump it?

Yes. Because it's not a sexy, life-threatening disease, you don't get money pouring in to find a cure.

How about if you re-launched it – with a new name?

Well that's where Dysfunctional Gut Syndrome (DGS)

comes in. DGS has been adopted by allergy specialists to describe not just irritable bowel syndrome, but a condition where patients can suffer symptoms all over the body (headaches, impaired memory, nasal discharge, skin rashes, fatigue, tissue swelling, joint and muscle pains, thrush and irritable bladder.) In nearly all sufferers, investigations turn up nothing and most struggle on. But enthusiasts such as Professor Jonathan Brostoff at the Allergy Clinic at Middlessex hospital have found that once identified, a considerable number can be helped with an elimination diet. It's called the Stone Age diet and it's based on the principle that if we ate what our cave-dwelling ancestors did, our guts would be a lot healthier.

So what is in our modern diets that does the damage?

For many, it seems that refined sugars and carbohydrates are the culprits. These are gobbled up by yeast in the bowel, which grow like crazy, wiping out all the good bacteria and mucking up bowel function.

And what's the evidence?

Not conclusive and, lots more research needs to be done. However, severe sufferers of DGS have often had protracted courses of antibiotics in the past which are well known to kill good bacteria and promote yeast growth. Also, a Gut Fermentation Test has been developed, on the principle that if you have a lot of yeast on board you do a lot of fermenting. Patients are given a 5g oral glucose load and their blood alcohol and aldehyde levels are measured afterwards.

What, so eating sugar can make these patients drunk?

Perhaps not drunk, but a number have been found to have blood alcohol levels above the legal drink-drive limit without having touched a drop. It's called the auto-brewery syndrome.

I must remember it next time I'm stopped.

But most of the evidence is anecdotal. A lot of patients who've tried the exclusion diet perhaps in conjunction with some anti-fungal drugs, swear by it. Maria Cook, a theatre sis-

ter, who I met while filming *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor*, suffered from tiredness, aches and swelling of the face so severe that her mask couldn't hide it. Now she feels great.

Hang on. There are hundreds of books about the evil of yeast or Candida, all written by flaky people making outrageous claims – are you telling me they're right?

Some of what they say might be right, but they undermine it with unsubstantiated sensationalism. As Prof Brostoff puts it "We each have 30 ft of gut so it's difficult to know what's happening mid-way down there but of the studies that have been done, if you put patients on the right diet, half of them will get better quickly."

And what is the right diet?

To kick out yeast, sugar and refined carbohydrate, you can only eat meat and fish, poultry and game (but not chicken), vegetables (but not potato, tomato and soya) fruit (except citrus) and nuts (except peanuts). You can drink additive free non-citrus fruit drinks, herb and fruit teas. Also in are

salt, pepper, herbs, olive or sunflower oil and rice. And for sweeteners, try honey, maple syrup, saccharine or aspartame. You can kick off with two teaspoons of Epsom salts to get your bad diet out of the way.

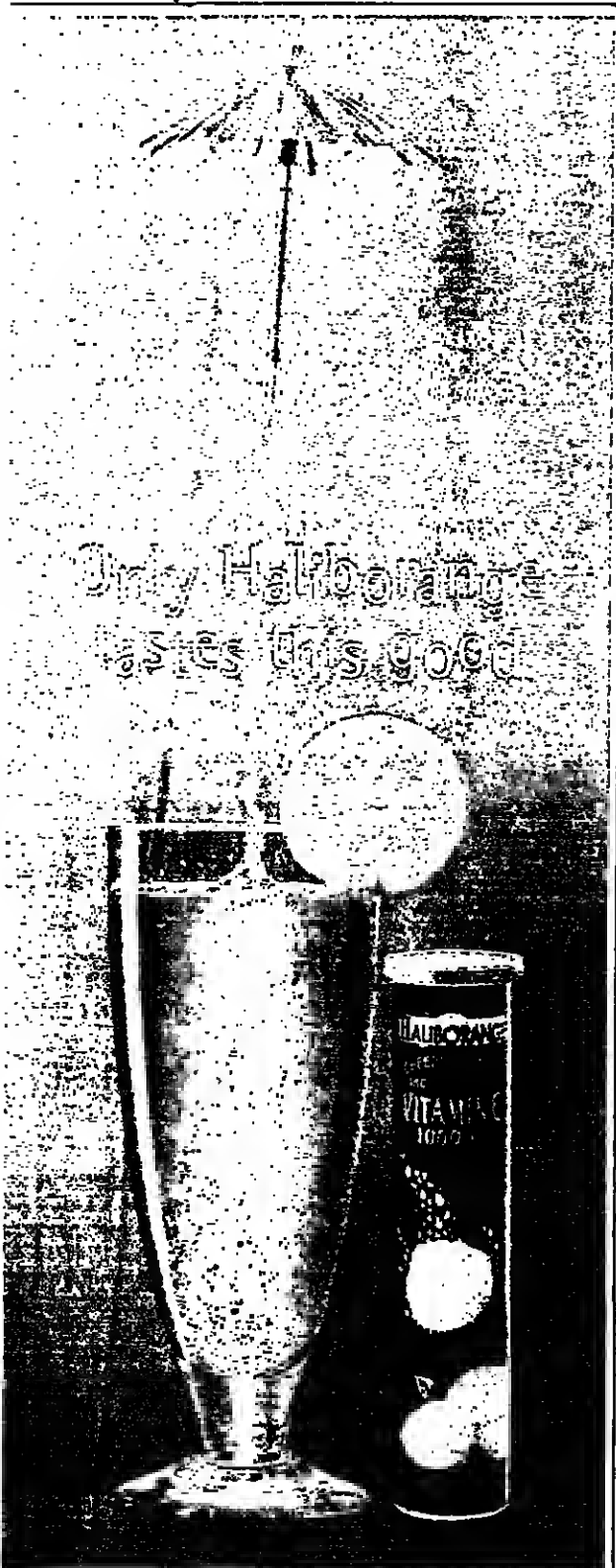
What, no cereals, toast and yeast extract?

"Fraid not. And there are plenty of hidden pitfalls, eg preparing food for others or even licking stamps and envelopes can cause contamination. Smoking should be stopped too. Also, when you've been on the diet a while, some people use probiotics (eg live yoghurt) and prebiotics (specialised fibre food) from health food stores to encourage growth of good bacteria. These benefits are probable but not proven.

So not easy at all really?

No. And because you'll need continuing support and encouragement and it has to be monitored closely to prove it works, it's best you try to be referred to a nutritionist or an allergy specialist.

The new series of *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* starts tonight, 8pm, BBC2.



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Art that falls between two stools

Some might call Manzoni's art excremental, but, argues Tom Lubbock, once you accept that his excrement is art, a gallery is perhaps the last place you should expect to find it

THIS is a curious business. The Serpentine Gallery has just reopened, and it's looking pretty good. It's had a comprehensive renovation, which leaves its exhibition space larger, lighter, more open-plan - leaves it, that is, as a more efficient version of the all-white modern gallery it was before, a better ideal home for the modern art object. And what does it open with? A show of Piero Manzoni.

The Italian artist died exactly 35 years ago, aged 29, after an alcoholic binge. Yet in the last six years of his life, he produced a body of work that puts him second only to Marcel Duchamp as an artist who revolutionised the nature of art. His influence on contemporary art, not least Young British Art, has been enormous, but his name hasn't had a lot of public recognition lately. In those terms a retrospective exhibition seems timely. On Manzoni's own terms, however, it can only look like an open contradiction.

It's good to see a photo of the artist, to catch the spirit - in place of Duchamp's knowing, enigmatic smile, you see a chubby, mischievous grin. Look, for instance, at the photo of Manzoni in front of a lavatory, holding up a can of *Merda d'artista* - artist's shit. This was his most famous production, a series of 90 tins, each preserving 30 grams of his own stool, and priced by Manzoni at the same rate as 30 grams of gold (the price fluctuated daily with the markets).

Or again, he designated humans as artworks, by signing them, or by issuing them with certificates. The critic and novelist Umberto Eco was one who got a chit making him a work of art for life; others got more temporary status. In *Flato d'artista* (artist's breath), he inflated balloons, the shrunken remains of which are shown here, as are some of the *Uova con impronta*, hard-boiled eggs bearing the artist's thumbprint and examples

from the *Linea* series, sealed cardboard tubes containing scrolls of paper on which Manzoni had drawn lines of various lengths, never to be opened.

The mischief is clear. With works like these, Manzoni put in question some basic notions about the artwork. For example: that it's a unique, permanent, physical, visible thing, a commodity with a market price, a vehicle for self-expression with a premium put on the artist's original handwork. He challenged these notions by stretching them to the limit. (What is a thumbprint but the most literal kind of "handwork"?)

is a meaningless bluff. For it is plainly true that Manzoni and other artists have questioned art's tenets, and been much praised for doing so, without it making the slightest difference to the values of the art world.

Everything stayed in place. All that happened was that Manzoni's "questions", rather than achieving art's dissolution, enlarged art's repertoire. Performance art, conceptual art, body art: his legacy in the past 30 years is great. But what was meant to burst art's limits has only extended the kinds of objects and activities that can count as art - new ways of doing

sage. Step up, good people, become art. Oh, no you don't, keep back. It would have been possible, if the original was too fragile or too expensive, to make a practical replica. But that wouldn't do, would it? The way the value of the original art object remains undisturbed couldn't be shown more clearly.

But maybe the cordon should be seen as really part of the work, a conscious editorial correction to it. It would be a way of saying: of course Manzoni's "magic" doesn't work any more, we know better now; all these ideas about the dissolution of art, nice anarchic hopes at the time, but quite unrealistic, quite impossible.

Certainly he was attempting the impossible, for the blunt reason that artists cannot unilaterally revolutionise the nature of art. The art world, and the world generally, have to agree. And it's hard to imagine, say, the present world agreeing not to trade in anything that's sellable. Today 30 grams of gold costs about £200; rather less, presumably, than the amount a can of *Merda d'artista* would fetch under the hammer. (Splish! That auction is a sight I'd like to see.) Meanwhile, the distinction between what's art and what's not is as rigid as ever. Manzoni's certificates are collectables, but no collector has tried, so far as I know, to purchase Umberto Eco.

Perhaps Manzoni was aware of the impossibility. The "magical" dimension of his work - turning a person or a pocket of breath into art, turning shit into gold - seems ambiguous. It exposes the old idea of the great artist's transforming, value-creating touch. Yet this critical gesture also returns ironically on to Manzoni himself: a hint that his whole attempt to break the boundaries of art was itself no more than wishful conjuring.

But then Manzoni's "magical" turns, have yet another



Manzoni's 'Merda d'artista No. 066', 1961

what are breath or excrement but the most literal forms of "self-expression"? He pursued, in short, a hopeful anarchic dream: the dissolution of that special category of things traditionally called art. Odd then to find him celebrated in a one-man retrospective of precious, unique originals, in an art gallery rebuilt the better to perform its traditional function.

As the Serpentine's director, Julia Peyton-Jones, asks (rhetorically): "How could a gallery present such works as the *Merda d'artista* without a self-consciousness that its very tenets are being questioned?" And I would answer: this self-consciousness

the same old business. (I don't complain, the results of this extension have often been good.) As for his own works, they now seem to stand as relics of a high-minded, historic failure, with gallery exhibition as the conclusive stamp of this failure.

This is felt most piquantly with *Magic Base*, a wooden pyramid structure with a flat top, on which are stuck a pair of shoe insoles. Manzoni would invite people to stand on this plinth: they would thus - hey presto - briefly, themselves, become artworks. But as it's exhibited here... well, you can guess, can't you? It has a cordon round it. So the work transmits a contradictory mes-



Piero Manzoni signs his 'Living Work of Art', at the Studio Filmgiornale Sedi, Milan, in 1961

side: not critical or ironic, but performing an act of simple praise for the world and the human. It's the most lasting and attractive aspect of his work. Our breath, our shit, our bodies, our most basic marks - these things are worthy of all the honour we have given to the greatest masterpieces. Seen like that,

Manzoni's work itself stays well within the confines of art, tries to change nothing, offers only a vision, an elevating vision that radiates here from one work in particular.

Socle du monde (world plinth) is a large iron cuboid, on one side of which the title is embossed in bronze classical let-

tering - upside-down. And, with that inversion, gravity is reversed and the world itself turned upside-down. This block at our feet is the planet's own pedestal, and for a moment we stand towards the whole earth both in awe and as its makers. It's a noble emblem of humanism. Praise to the Serpentine for

exhibiting it. In a few square feet it does what a certain dome, now under construction, can only dream of doing.

To 26 April, Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (0171-402 6075). Sponsored by BMW Financial Services Group and Selfridges & Co.

Triumph of technicality

Tricks of the trade dominate the Royal Photographic Society's 141st annual show, says Phil Johnson

GYPSIES: breasts made to look like Iron Age hill-forts or desert landscapes; nude pensioners; more gypsies; practitioners of age-old trades ("Whitler, Northington Woods" by Michael Clement); tricky conversation pieces: beach huts; gypsies again. The RPS Annual has been going a long time - this is the 141st show - and, like the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, it's a reliable barometer of what might be taken to represent the contemporary picturesque. And now we know why gypsies keep moving around. It's mainly to escape all these intrusive photographers.

It's an open competition and, with nearly 1,800 images to choose from for a final showing of 90 or so, the job of the selectors is clearly a difficult one, but even the judges display some qualms about the quality of the entrants.

John Easterby, the editor of the Independent Photographers Group, writes in the catalogue: "There was a mind-boggling range of technical skills on display. However, with no pictures of news events, social comment, attempts to address a single humanitarian issue, no reportage, fashion or sports photography to speak of, I was left with the impression that here was a case of technical inventiveness triumphing over content. I really do wonder why many of these pictures were taken."

From a technical standpoint, the prints are impressive. There's selenium toning, silver gelatin and silver bromide mirror prints. Lith prints. Polaroids and



Nicely quirky: Benjamin Dray's 'Bungee Jump, Brighton 1995'

the odd bit of digital retouching, but the beach huts and gypsies remain stubbornly themselves.

The winning entrant is "Die Trauerfeier" by Herbert Sternberger from Germany, which shows three couples dancing around a coffin while a woman plays the piano and a child does a headstand in the background. It's impressively odd, if ultimately, perhaps, yet another conversation piece.

Of the British photographers selected, Benjamin Dray's "Bungee Jump", in which a group of Asian women form the foreground against a doll-like jumper emerging into the top of

the frame, is nicely quirky, but the overall impression in the show is of tricks of the trade mixed with rather obviously set-up shots, like a cross between Cartier Bresson and Monte Fresco.

Here's Richard Branson wearing a pair of wings, like an out-take from an album promo shot, or Matt Partridge's "Outdoor Laundry", where a yard full of pallets carrying washing machines becomes the scene for a bit of cheeky business. A naked man sticks his kit into a washer, and one thinks of all the effort involved: the painstaking setting up of the shot, the directions to the model, the fid-

dling with the light meter and aperture. And was it worth it? Bluntly, no.

Better by far to stick to those plucky gypsies, as in James Lampard's "Gypsy Family, Appleby", another prizewinner. It's the very devil to get them to stay still long enough to complete the shot, but like Augustus John at the RA 80 years ago, you know you're on to a winner.

The Royal Photographic Society Annual International Print Exhibition continues at the Octagon Galleries in Milkom Street, Bath, until 22 March. Tel: 01225 462841.

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Overlooking the impressive Guell Palace, in prime location just 50 metres from Las Ramblas and Barcelona's tempting shops, bars and restaurants.

**** Hotel Almirante from £219pp
Enjoying a prime city location, the Almirante is well placed for Barcelona's main sights and a short walk from the magnificent Cathedral and port. £7 supp pppn for Mon - Thu

Madrid
(departures from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Glasgow)

*** Hotel Regina from £179pp
Boasting an excellent position, the Regina is within easy walking distance of the main museums and only 100 metres from the lively Puerta del Sol.

**** Hotel Riena Victoria from £229pp
Built at the turn of the century and situated in the heart of Old Madrid in the Plaza San't Anna, the Riena Victoria is very conveniently placed for the Prado museum and the main shopping area and close to many of Madrid's best restaurants. £2 supp pppn for Mon - Thu arrivals

A tale of two cities

Barcelona

Renowned as Europe's most exciting city, Barcelona is a stylish, architecturally stunning, cosmopolitan city that is the capital of Catalonia and a superb destination for a short break. Since the 1992 Olympic Games, Barcelona has undergone a huge transformation and is a delight to wander round and explore.

Madrid

The wonderful Modernist architecture of Gaudi and others make every street a visual treat and in addition, there are many more places to visit than you will find in any other second city.

Ideal for a short break. Apart from the excellent shopping and night life, Madrid's main attraction is its outstanding art galleries. These include the Prado, the Reina Sofia, together they make one of the finest collections in the world. The beautiful medieval cities of Toledo, Avila and Segovia are all within 90 minutes of Madrid

THE INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT; DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 3000 OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Sex pests mean bad managers

THEY JUST don't get it. Those lawyers, police officers, naval commanders. They may not like it, but women are a fixture in the modern workplace. They are not going to disappear back to domestic servitude. The rhythms of their lives are going to have to be accommodated in the places where we work. But why is it necessary to use the future tense? Women did not arrive in previously all-male environments yesterday. Their coming had been presaged for years. Those senior lawyers, soldiers and police officers have had a long time to prepare. And they refused. It's one thing that so few women are getting through the ranks to replace them as commanding officers, judges and the like. It's quite another damning indictment that so many women still suffer daily from the unwelcome sexual attentions of the men they work with, including their bosses.

Sexual attraction happens in the workplace; but is not and never can be an excuse for abuse of power. If men are allowed to get away with it, that speaks of a massive failure of managerial process. Sexual harassment is an organisational pathology which affects shareholders, customers and the wider efficiency of the economic system. With each passing year, women will be making an ever greater contribution to gross national product, as well as taking a growing part in provision of such hard-to-measure services as defence and policing. Their contribution would be all the greater if the places they worked, in the private and public sectors, were well managed.

Good management begins with the strict enforcement of norms of courteous conduct and mutual respect. It does not condone a groping hand up a woman's skirt. Let alone a pig-headed refusal to countenance women's movement up the promotion ladder. To victimise women who dare to complain of their treatment is even worse. That men and women working together will form attachments - "have relationships" in the cloyed phrase of the age - is a truism. And irrelevant. Any manager who cannot distinguish assent from oppression and provide avenues for complaint is not worth the name.

Yesterday Christopher Sutton-Mattocks stood down from the bench, several days after the Bar Council found him guilty of sexually harassing two pupils in his barrister's chambers. He may appeal. Judges, even part-timers, must be like Caesar's wife. And that is not for their own self-respect as practitioners of the law but for the sake of the legal system. Someone who cannot tell when his attentions are unwelcome can hardly be credited with forensic skill. Let alone the sensitivity and imagination to conduct a court case. That firm statement by the Lord Chancellor's office against sexual harassment by judges is welcome.

Sadly the Sutton-Mattocks case is not an isolated example of that special abuse of trust which occurs when a senior, a leader who may assess a subordinate's performance, uses his position in order to seek favours. This is managerial turpitude.

Yet it is with managers - partners in the case of accountants and lawyers - that the buck stops. There is no point hoping for some miraculous transformation of general attitudes in the workplace at large. Awareness training for employees only goes so far. Ultimately, harassment and the mistreatment of female colleagues, let alone women in junior positions, is a matter of managerial effectiveness. In public sector organisations there is no excuse. Police, fire-service, defence, local government. Whitehall: all are supposed to have been reformed. This kind of managerial failure implies that the much-vaunted innovations of recent years, supposedly soon to be celebrated in a Better Government White Paper, have not gone far enough. If police officers and other officials can treat women badly in the office or on the beat, what price fair policing and even-handed public service?

As for the private sector, clearly some managers (such as Mr Sutton-Mattocks) are all too ready to behave like "one of the boys". Customer pressure (from the clients of legal practices, for example) is a blunt instrument. There may thus be no alternative except a succession of brave women to speak up and bear the indignities and often the financial costs of taking action in industrial tribunals or using the creaky mechanisms of professional discipline.

Mean city streets to let



KIRKLEES COUNCIL in West Yorkshire is organising bus tours around two of its "hard-to-let" housing estates to try to drum up the interest of would-be tenants. As a marketing ploy it's imaginative. Perhaps next time the estates could be asked to put on a display of joy-riding followed by a crotchety exhibition by the local (single) mothers' union. Tourism might not work, however, on those estates where a police escort and outsiders are needed to stop the muth having the tyres off your vehicle in five seconds.

And yet maybe Kirklees' example does have something to offer other public services. Most could be marketed much more effectively. Wouldn't it be refreshing - however unlikely it may be - to have the National Health Service inviting the public in to sample food prepared in hospital kitchens or test the salubrious (and empty!) waiting-rooms in their accident and emergency departments. It's true that some schools do now open their doors to would-be parents, just as some docks, fire stations and refuse disposal plants have open days in order to impress the public with their efficiency. Some services, however, are designed to repel. It would not do to arrange scenic tours round Parkhurst or Durham jails - unless visitors emerged vowing never to darken their doors again.



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"Isn't that going a bit far? Saddam Hussein is a power-mad tyrant who ruthlessly crushes anyone who tries to disagree with him!"

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PICTURE OF THE DAY



On the road: this image is one of a collection of portraits of horse-drawn travellers and gypsy families by James Lampard. They are on show from today till 11 April at fStop Media Station, Green Park Station, Bath. Contact: Anonymous Associates, 01225 337729

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Countryside myth

IT IS disturbing to see the Countryside March being taken seriously by the Government. The Prime Minister has laid great stress upon his project of modernisation: of the Labour Party, and now of the country. Most of the disparate protesters grouped around the demonstration seek to uphold the most backward-looking of social relations.

In many rural areas the social cohesion essential to the maintenance of shops and services is undermined by people who are absent in towns during the day. House prices soar, and those who actually need to live and work in the countryside are driven further to the social margins. Meanwhile many town centres are depleted because too many of those who work in towns (especially the wealthy ones) do not live as part of the communities which provide their employment. The shuttling between rural home and urban work helps to dog roads and contributes to pollution.

The solution is not, as has been suggested within government, to subsidise petrol for rural dwellers. That will simply be a form of regressive taxation whereby the urban poor subsidise the maintenance of a middle-class dream of "a home in the country". A better solution would be tax incentives for those who live close to their place of work.

This is a predominantly urban society which culturally subscribes to the view that non-metropolitan urban life is always second-best and rural life always preferable. That has to change. We are pulling down tower blocks which in other countries would be desirable homes, and building miserable and alienating suburbs on greenfield sites because of the grip of a mythical pastoralism on our imaginations.

The whingeing of the country movement proposes nothing that will modernise Britain and revitalise our society. The best thing they could do would be to support an urban movement to transform our towns.

YASMIN ALI
Preston, Lancashire

DISTURBED and perplexed by the number of people joining the Countryside March, opponents of hunt-

ing are desperately accusing the hunters of hijacking legitimate rural concerns. This is profoundly untrue.

"I don't hunt, but I am clear about my own motives for making the long journey from Northumberland to London. Hunting is the cultural tradition of a decent minority group, and the Bill to ban it symbolises the populist bigotry of this government, with its rampant 'bannitis'."

Many people in rural areas may indeed tell pollsters that they personally dislike hunting. Yet I suspect that, if asked, they would go on to say that they do not wish to impose their views on others. This tolerance of country traditions may be the real difference between rural and urban attitudes to hunting, and it has a broader significance. The fundamental issue is personal freedom.

ALASDAIR MITCHELL
Schofield, Northumberland

THE PRIME MINISTER, seeking to reconcile his One Nation policy with the cocktail of conflicting causes represented by the Countryside March, could start by devolving the hunting issue. This clash of individual conscience and rural tradition is surely best fought out at local government level.

Westminster politicians could then concentrate on ensuring that the nation as a whole benefited from future subsidies paid to farmers. If the public wants to retain small fields and their hedges, which, as Roger Straton (letter, 28 February) implies, are a handicap in competing with world market prices, then switch the arable aid Mr Straton presumably now gets for his wheatfields into hedging grants. Likewise, set-aside and even extensification payments, which we currently receive for keeping livestock at lower stocking rates, could be tied to public access to those fields on a farm claiming them.

JOHN TRICKS
Credon, Devon

Blowing the whistle

THERE ARE a couple of points I would like to take up following the coverage you have given (23, 25 February) to my Public Interest Disclosure Bill.

First, for the very reasons Dr Slapper sets out in his letter, the law will provide for reinstatement. Indeed, because whistle-blowers are so vulnerable, the Government has agreed to extend to them the special provisions for reinstatement pending the full hearing.

My own view, however, is that the most effective way to protect whistle-blowers and to promote the public interest is to ensure that unscrupulous employers have to compensate any public-spirited employee they victimise for his actual losses. As this view is shared by the CBI, the TUC and all other key interests, I am increasingly confident that the Government will accept the sense in this approach and legislate on this basis.

Finally, if any reader is concerned about fraud, public danger or other serious malpractice and is unsure whether to blow the whistle or stay silent, I urge them to contact Public Concern at Work (0171 404 6609) for free legal advice.

RICHARD SHEPHERD MP
(Aldridge Brownhills, C)
House of Commons
London SW1

BBC for schools

SO, BBC School Radio has been axed? Or so said Sally Williams's article on children's radio (Media, 23 February). We were more than a touch surprised. This year we are transmitting 260 hours of programmes for schools on Radio 3, backed up by a popular cassette service for hard-pressed teachers. And we don't intend to axe anything.

"Dry and formal" may be Sally Williams's verdict on BBC Educa-

tion's radio output. It's certainly not the verdict of the teachers and children who listen to it. Audiences are increasing.

ALAN LAMBERT
Commissioning Editor, BBC Education
GEOFF MARSHALL-TAYLOR
Executive Producer, BBC Education
London W12

Lingua franca

YOUR report on linguistic confusion in Brussels (28 February) highlights a problem which in the short term can only get worse. In the long term, however, the solution could be to adopt a common European second language, which could be taught to all European schoolchildren from an early age.

As you point out, national rivalry will preclude the adoption of any modern language. The logical candidate is Latin, which was in fact used for this very purpose in the Middle Ages. Modern technological terms would pose no problem, since most of these are derived from Latin or Greek. The use of Latin would also put an end to the creeping Anglicisation of other languages which is a source of resentment to our European neighbours, particularly the French.

ROGER WORDSWORTH
Kirkham, Lancashire

Henry the Forgotten

YOU SAY that if the succession had gone to the eldest child, irrespective of gender, Mary Tudor would have succeeded Henry VIII (born in 1491) ("Equality at last for royal daughters", 28 February).

No. Henry would not have been king. The throne would have gone to his elder sister Margaret Tudor (born 1489), who married James IV of Scotland. Their granddaughter was Mary, Queen of Scots.

SHEILA M LYONS
Chichester, West Sussex

Lottery children

THE WAY in which the participation of children in the National Lottery is being dealt with lacks credibility. ("Camelot told: stop sales to children", 27 February).

Although it is illegal for children to buy tickets, they have been involved in the promotion of the lottery, from its inception. Thus, children appeared in the initial television advertisements and were in the studio audience of the live draw, which was and still is broadcast before the 9pm watershed. Not surprisingly, audience research showed that the live draw is one of the most popular programmes with children.

In 1995, the National Council on Gambling complained to the Broadcasting Standards Council about this situation. Attention was drawn to a survey I conducted in an inner-city school which was reported in the *British Medical Journal*. This showed that nearly two-thirds of children admitted to purchasing lottery tickets. The National Heritage Department, Ofcom and the BBC chose to dismiss the significance of the points raised.

There is now a need for fundamental changes in the manner the lottery is promoted. As a first step, the proposed new television scratch-card show should be cancelled.

Dr EMORAN
Consultant Psychiatrist
Chairman, The National Council on Gambling
London N14

Chess education

KIRSAN ILYUMZHINOV may be labelled eccentric ("Russia's black knight makes a global move", 25 February), but he is right about chess helping the child's intellectual development. As a coach I teach chess to groups and one-to-one, and I am convinced that it deserves equal status in education with maths and music.

Young offenders should be given chess tuition. It would teach them to be aware of the consequences of their actions, and channel their aggression into a mind sport.

TONY BLADES
Birkenhead, Merseyside

John Major gives serious thought to resigning on a point of principle



MILES KINGSTON

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Call me unfashionable, but Harriet deserves an even break



DONALD
MACINTYRE

Don't trust the detractors. Some ministers become unpopular but that does not mean they have been doing a bad job

WHO'S UP? Who's down? The great, burning question of British political gossip since records began, fills the pages of every diarist from Chips Channon through Dick Crossman to Alan Clark. The basis for the answer is something intangible, a combination of the press coverage minister X gets, the last thing anyone heard, or says they heard, the Prime Minister remark about him or her, some wispy, inexplicable sense the colleagues have of whether promotion, demotion or a sideways move beckons.

Judged by such deeply unscientific criteria, Harriet Harman isn't exactly up. The latest charge against her is that she has been leaking budget information - a charge which can be levelled more widely than at Ms Harman. The Treasury itself has adopted a rather more flexible attitude to budget purdah than in the past. Last week, two reports did indeed appear about budget provisions which she must have known about, since they affected her own departmental responsibilities.

The first affected lone parents, subject of the government's most outstanding presentational and political debacle to date. It said that the child premium on income support would be increased by a level high enough to offset the cuts in lone parents' benefit forced through a deeply reluctant House of Commons late last year. This was an entirely welcome boost for poor lone parents but one which also kept intact the principle that henceforth the same child benefit would be paid to lone parents as to married couples. The second said that there would be a big increase in child care support for those earning less than around £20,000 a year - on a bigger scale than expected and possibly worth as much as £1bn. This was also welcome, not least to this newspaper which has been campaigning for an increase in child care support. Ms Harman was not, it is pretty clear after detailed enquiries, the source of the first report. She certainly appears to have talked in general terms to journalists about plans to boost child care - including openly in front of the Select Committee last Wednesday - though she was not the source of the first newspaper to discover the figures involved.

But there is also a second question, obvious from the above to all except politicians and journalists, which is how much all this matters - however annoying it is to the presentation control-freaks who inhabit every corner of the government? First, Ms Harman

hasn't suddenly discovered a sudden and new interest in child care when she needs to. Speaking in the Commons last Friday Malcolm Chisholm - who has no reason whatever to suck up to Ms Harman since he resigned as a social security minister in protest against cuts in lone parents benefit - paid a handsome tribute to her for being passionate about the subject since she came into the Commons in 1983 and said the government's National Childcare Strategy - of which this month's budget provisions will be a central part - would be a "lasting monument to her". Women - in every age group including pensioners - and children are those on whom poverty falls disproportionately. She has articulated this fact consistently. And she has endeavoured - with an admittedly co-operative Chancellor - to ensure that the problem is addressed in the budget.

It's a commonplace that Ms Harman isn't exactly popular in her party. Some of it is her fault. (She must bear her share of the blame for both the execution and the presentation of the lone parents' decision.) But some of it isn't. As Gordon Brown's Shadow Chief Secretary she was obliged to tour the offices of her colleagues warning them that cherished spending commitments would have to be ditched. And as Shadow Employment Secretary, she did a lot first to broaden the consensus for a national minimum wage high enough to make a difference but not high enough to send unemployment soaring again. But she did not make many friends among party fundamentalists, or in the unions, for her steadfast refusal to hint at figures at the higher, 24 per hour plus, end of the spectrum. That was nothing compared with her decision to send her second son to a grammar school. It infuriated many people in the Labour Party - including Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's Press Secretary - who thought it was a betrayal of Labour's commitment to comprehensive education. And it infuriated many more who had made their own choice of school with more attention to political orthodoxy than to what they might, as private citizens, have judged the best interests of their children. Finally she annoyed many male Labour MPs by backing women's quotas - an irony in view of the fact that she has now been accused of trying to improve her standing in the Labour hierarchy by promoting women's issues. And this was all before she carried the can for what was, when all is said and done, a collective decision made jointly with the Treasury to cut lone parents' benefit. And before she was summoned to No 10 and personally reprimanded by the Prime Minister for floating via the use of the term "affluence tests" the notion that the some benefits were still being wasted on those who didn't need them. This may have been presentationally unwise at the time; for a government seeking to reform welfare it would have been incredible if the government wasn't testing the validity of universal benefits to destruction. Moreover Ms Harman also has some qualities which tend to be overlooked. She is tough. She is a welfare reform believer in a Cabinet which is less full of hard edged modernisers than it is sometimes assumed. Her relations with her Minister of State Frank Field - after a wholly disastrous start - appeared to have improved significantly to the credit of both of them. Of course Gordon Brown remains the unchallenged architect of what now promises to be a budget both redistributive and fiscally prudent. But she has played her part. It isn't fashionable to say so, but she deserves her share of the credit too.

The BBC is a public service. And that means not faking integrity

We pay our licence fee for television which serves the whole audience and takes risks. Andreas Whittam-Smith says. But the accountants see things differently

NO BBC person gives a speech without mentioning public service at least a dozen times. At a conference last week, the director of policy, Patricia Hodgson, didn't entitle her address "The BBC in the Digital Age" but "Public Service Broadcasting in the Digital Age".

Yet an accumulation of incidents is beginning to make me wonder whether the public service ethos of the BBC is less pervasive than it appears. For example there is the recent decision to move daily coverage of Parliament into what Gerald Kaufman has aptly called "the ghetto of long wave radio".

According to a leaked report, an edition of *The Rantzen Report* is due to be criticised later this week by the Broadcasting Standards Commission as "inaccurate, misleading and unfair". And now we are arguing about whether fly-on-the-wall documentaries are sometimes faked. As far as the BBC's *The Driving School* is concerned, a spokesman said: "Some of it was faked. It was a light-hearted documentary. But the integrity was still there". Is this possible: fake and integrity in the same product?

Of all the many things which comprise public service broadcasting, reporting Parliament is not the least important, particularly as newspapers, regrettably, have substantially reduced their coverage. Is *Yesterday in Parliament* intrinsically dull? I don't think it is, though doubtless an inspired editor could still improve it. The raw material is more than adequate for the making of a good programme.

So far as criticism of *The Rantzen Report*'s allegations about a hospital are concerned, I am less bothered about the rights and wrongs of the case than I am about the BBC's own investigation into complaints about the programme. The Complaints Unit found "minor inaccuracies" and "clear unfairness". None-the-less, no apology was made. As a result, if the Broadcasting Standards Commission does indeed make trenchant criticisms, we shall be left wondering whether the BBC's internal inquiries are more concerned with shielding the corporation than rectifying errors.

However I think that the BBC's stars, seeing a steady trickle of such incidents, take aim at the wrong target. The other day Kate Adie, like many others, put the blame on management style. She says that the BBC has developed a huge division between the people who run the corporation and those who make the programmes. She went on: "It has become more acute in the past decade at the BBC because there is undoubtedly now a management which is a reflection of modern business methods." Certainly



Kate Adie: BBC's stars are aiming at the wrong target

there is a curious management-speak, of which Ms Adie says she is ashamed. I saw a BBC recruitment advertisement recently which referred to all 500 qualified accounting staff as being "members of the Finance family".

The fact is that the division which Kate Adie describes exists in most institutions. There is always a gulf of understanding and temperament between the creators of a product and those concerned with administration. The Royal Opera House has provided eloquent evidence of this fissure. Probably, to take a completely different example, the people designing aircraft engines at Rolls Royce feel similarly frustrated. It is an inevitable tension which is by no means always damaging.

Of course the BBC very well understands the public interest. A paper, "The BBC's Ten Year Vision", predicts

that the burgeoning commercial sector will increasingly gravitate towards a narrow range of programmes, favouring light entertainment, long-running series, sport and niche services, despite having a greater number of channels. In contrast, the paper argues, the job of the public service broadcaster in these circumstances is to serve the whole audience, not just those parts which are commercially attractive, to make programmes which the market will never provide and, by setting standards and taking risks, limit any tendency among commercial broadcasters to focus on the lowest common denominator. In other words, the BBC is to be the sheet anchor of the broadcasting system.

That is all very well. But it is not the only matter weighing on the corporate mind. From the outside, the BBC ap-

pears as the most fortunately placed corporation in the country. It knows exactly what its revenue will be this year, next year and the year afterwards. Whether it performs badly or not, the licence fee will continue to roll in. Added to which, it has dominating shares of most of its markets. By contrast, Rupert Murdoch's operation looks as dangerous as trying to fly non-stop round the world by balloon. But that is not how the future is seen within the citadel. The BBC's nightmare is that one day it might lose the licence fee or see its value drastically reduced. As it is, the BBC can see that the licence fee is unlikely to grow as quickly as its rivals' advertising revenues or the fees from subscription and pay-TV. That is why the corporation has to hack away at its cost structure, and the result is that Ms Adie feels herself dominated by management types.

As it celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Corporation feels itself on the retreat. For its first 50 years it maintained its market shares at 100 per cent. Then in the 1950s, it lost its television monopoly, in the 1970s competitors came into local radio and finally in the 1990s the monopoly of national radio went. As a result, considerations of public service are not always, or even generally, the main focus.

The BBC is just as concerned as any commercial broadcaster with attracting the largest possible audience. It does not see how it can continue to justify the licence fee without providing popular services which most people want to watch. If the market generally is dumpling down, then the BBC will dumpling down. If the most entertaining fly-on-the-wall documentaries require a little contriving or a bit of cheating, then that is what will be done. If parliamentary news appears boring, then it can no longer be allowed to occupy a prominent position.

The corporation then, is subject to two commandments which are often in competition with each other - secure the public interest, and keep up the numbers. This is where the dangerous tension lies, rather than between managers and creative people. Actually the numbers are looking good. In spite of cable and satellite, BBC television's share of all viewing has held steady at around 42 per cent to 43 per cent.

This is the task for the governors. In the annual report, these distinguished people outline a range of duties which they have assumed. To me, their job is simply described. It is to arbitrate between management's understandable desire to retain high market shares in the various broadcasting markets the BBC serves and the requirements of public service, relatively unpopular as these may sometimes be. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, has quickly grasped the danger. He said last month that he wanted to establish formal meetings with the governors at least twice a year so that he could ensure that the corporation was sticking to the terms of its Royal Charter. "If it is forgetting that it is a public service broadcaster, then it is forgetting its *raison d'être*," he said. Exactly.

I thought Bathos was a cut-price holiday destination



ANNE
MCELVOY

Companies are no longer content with selling us things: they want us to love them for it

BUSINESSES have their own grammar: they decline verbs irregularly. "I cut prices out of generosity towards the customer! You undercut me because you are greedy! He/she/it must do something about it!"

The cut-price carrier easyJet has served a writ against British Airways, claiming that it is cross-subsidising Go, its new low-price airline and that the tactic is intended to put easyJet out of business.

Cross-subsidy is the established company's weapon against the innovative talents of the newcomer. The difficulty in defining where it is illegal does not detract from the frustration we feel when big business birds of prey swoop on smaller and nimbler rivals. So the anger of

small carriers which have liberated travellers from British Airways' expense-account fare structures is understandable.

Under this kind of pressure, companies are increasingly inclined to throw themselves on the mercy of the public and present their plight as a moral crusade. "Hey," says someone in the PR rather regions, "we're the little guy. Our customers are the little guys. We're all in this together. Like Ben and Jerry said."

This snugly view of capitalism has led easyJet to publish bathetic full-page newspaper ads reproducing letters from outraged passengers. (Their outrage was nourished by the prospect of winning free tickets, which de-gilts the gu-

gerbread a little.) Eight-year-old Roseanna writes, "My daddy is always moaning about big business forcing the little man out of business...". A (presumably fully grown) Mr Shatlock from Peterborough is less sophisticated: "What's the difference between a BA flight and a Go flight? One screws customers while the other screws competitors."

At this point, I am overcome by a sudden desire never to fly easyJet again. It is a fine line between companies informing their customers why they feel threatened by cross-subsidy and them turning into undignified whingers. *The Independent* has made its case against predatory pricing in the face of cost-cutting by Rupert Mur-

doch. But enterprises should be wary of mistaking the loyalty customers bear a business which delivers a good product at a sound price for the notion that they should love the company like a brother.

Not that easyJet is alone in trying to reinvent the relation between producer and customer as an affair of the heart. "The weather is brought to you by Powergen," murmurs a voice after the evening news. To which we're supposed to respond, "That's nice of them", rather than enquiring too closely into the fatness of their executive cats.

But consumers are not fools. We know that easyJet is in business to make a profit. If the prices are low and the planes

leave on time, we don't begrudge it. Besides, there is an iron law which states that companies which try to garb their commercial aims in altruistic language invariably come a cropper. Ben and Jerry's promise that a brand of their ice-cream helped indigenous rainforest workers was met by protests that it wasn't helping them enough.

Rupert Murdoch rashly promised that exposure to his Star TV channel would topple dictators. Since then, he has had to expend a lot of effort correcting this impression with the Chinese. The result is the cancellation of Chris Patten's memoirs. A little morality in business goes a long way. A little moralising goes even further.

FORGET the Baby Boom: get ready for the Pop Babies. The Grammy success of Bob Dylan's son Jakob looks like just the beginning for the next generation of rock star children.

No doubt you've heard of Julian Lennon and now, Jakob Dylan. But did you know that Sean Lennon, 22, the only son of John and Yoko, has an album being released in May? Or that Adam Cohen, the 25-year-old son of the melancholic Canadian poet/crooner Leonard Cohen, has an album called - wait for it - *Cry Ophelia* coming out on Columbia? Meanwhile, Shana Morrison, 27-year-old daughter of Van, has recorded a demo with her group

Caledonia that is making the rounds in the States.

Other aspiring star offspring include Rufus Wainwright, 23, son of London Wainwright III; Rolan Bolan, 22, son of Marc Bolan; Chris Every, 23, Phil Every's boy; and Elijah Blue Allman, 20, the boy wonder of Gregg Allman and Cher, who plays mean goth rock. Let's give the last word to Chris Stills, 23, son of Stephen Stills, who recently reported, "When I told my dad what I wanted to do, he said 'What are you kidding me? Please go to college.'"

THE FIRST openly homosexual ambassadorial nomination in American history is bogged down in Congress. James Hornet is the son of the huge US meat-packing company that makes Spam. He is also an outspoken gay activist and a generous philanthropist. He has been nominated by President Clinton to be ambassador to Luxembourg after promising not to



present his lover as his "ambassadorial spouse". But conservative senators are blocking the nomination, asserting that Hornet may try to promote homosexuality as the US ambassador. Hornet vigorously denies that he will promote anything but the best interests of his country.

In California to attend daughter Chelsea's "Parents' Day" at Stanford, Clinton defended his nominee. "The only question the United States

Senate should ask, and there is only one answer, is will he or will he not be a good ambassador?" Pandora likewise only has one question. What on earth is happening in dreary old Luxembourg? Obviously James Hornet knows something or he wouldn't be so keen to camp out there.

THIS week's *UK Press Gazette* offers vivid coverage of the jailing of two British paparazzi in Los Angeles. The story about Giles Harrison and Andrew O'Brien, convicted of harassing Arnold Schwarzenegger, appears on page four. Followed, on page 18, by an advertisement placed by their employer Splash, the British tabloid bureau in L.A. seeking new photographers. Its irresistible headline? "Come work in the sun."

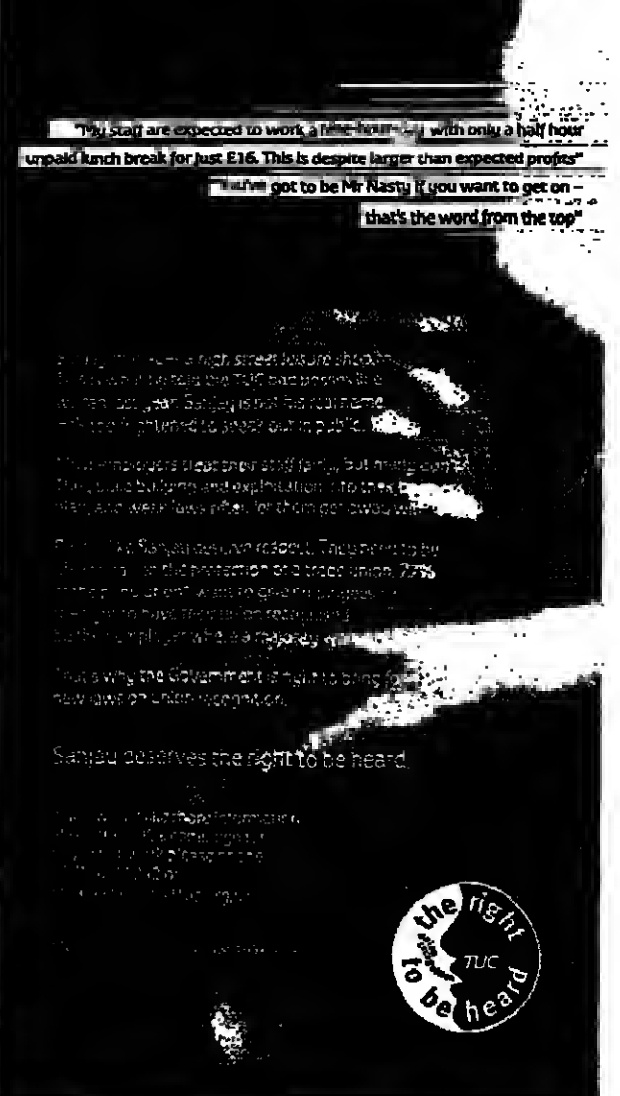
Presumably L.A. County Jail provides free towels, but applicants would be wise to bring their own tanning oil. And don't forget the bail money.

MIKE BLOOMBERG was taking no chances. The financial data tycoon who sponsored the Serpentine Gallery's gala reopening last week wanted the occasion to be as glittering and celebrity-filled as possible.

So he engaged - who else? - Aurelia Cecil, the glamorous luxury goods PR (clients: Versace, Daphne's) who is Prince Andrew's new flame. Talent like this doesn't come cheap. Aurelia's fee for producing a flood of A-list guests was £10,000.

Pandora

"My boss says I must be a bad boss too"



Sir Sam Curran

SAM CURRAN was one of the great Scots of the 20th century – in the tradition of the heroes of the 18th-century Scottish enlightenment.

He was the dynamo behind the creation of the hugely successful University of Strathclyde, the child of the Royal College of Science and Technology in Glasgow which had trained many of the great engineers and scientists of the 19th and first half of the 20th century.

In the spring of 1963, two of my young constituents got into deep trouble at the Royal College. An MP's letter to the Principal produced a phone call at 8.30 the following morning: "Can you come and see me?" Within minutes of entering the room, I sensed that I was in the presence of one of the most effective, superbly well-informed, and humane academic heavyweights.

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role models for those of us who believed in the white heat of the technological revolution.

Sam Curran was born one of the two remarkable sons of John Curran, a Fifer, and Sarah Crowe, from Ballymena, Co Antrim. The other, Robert Curran, was for 20 years Leith Professor of Pathology at Birmingham University. The Currans moved to Lanarkshire and Sam became dux (head boy) of Wishaw High School. His lifelong championing of the importance of science and maths teachers in school was ascribed to his own good fortune of being superbly taught by dedicated teachers at Wishaw.

First class honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy (physics) led to a PhD at St John's College, Cambridge, of which he was to become an honorary fellow 30 years later. At the Cavendish Laboratory he had the good fortune not only to have Lord Rutherford as his head of department but to work closely under C.T.R. Wilson, Nobel prizewinner and inven-

tor of the cloud chamber, and Harry Jones, father of Dame Angela Rumbold MP.

On the outbreak of the Second World War Curran went to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. He worked on the development of long-range centimetre radar and the proximity fuse. Among his colleagues was Joan Strothers, whom he had known at Cambridge and who was an expert on the scattering of strips of tin foil in the air with the result that enemy radar was disrupted. It was called "Operation Window". Curran married Joan Strothers in November 1940. It was to be a marriage of 57 outstandingly happy years. She was pivotal to his success as a scientist and as a vice-chancellor.

In 1944 Curran was sent to the Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley, California, to work on the development of what was to become the atomic bomb. While working for the Manhattan Project he invented the Scintillation Counter, an instrument for measuring radio activity.



Curran: pragmatism

This achievement was greatly praised by his old mentor C.T.R. Wilson, than whom no man was in a better position to judge.

Curran returned to the Physics department of Glasgow University at the special request of Professor Philip Dee, one of his former senior colleagues in the Cavendish and by that time Professor of Natural Philosophy at Glasgow.

He worked at Harwell from 1955 to 1958 and then became chief scientist of the Atomic

Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston for a year. He told me that he had pangs of conscience when he saw the pictures and heard the songs of the Aldermaston marchers and that this determined in part his decision to return to Glasgow as Principal of the Royal College of Science and Technology. I won't say that he felt guilty but after talking to his great friend Sir William Penney he thought he shared some responsibility for a substantial part of the work on the hydrogen bomb.

Much later in life he told me at a Strathclyde dinner: "I didn't agonise to the extent that Sir James Chadwick [isolator of the neutron] agonised over his part in making Hiroshima and Nagasaki possible. But I did wonder where the ultimate results of my work and that of my colleagues would lead."

Paying tribute to Curran, Professor Sir John Arlath, the present distinguished Principal of Strathclyde, said: "Curran transformed the Royal

College – itself a internationally renowned institution – into a university. Throughout his many years as Principal, he never lost sight of the ideals of Strathclyde's founder, John Anderson, and insisted that the university should usefully serve society in all its manifestations.

"Sir Sam insisted that its graduates should be trained and educated men and women who would respond to industry and their professions' changing circumstances. He was a man of vision and the seeds of Strathclyde's current success in commercialising its research activities were sown by him back in the Sixties and Seventies."

Curran had many wider interests. He was a member of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, 1962-65, of the Science Research Council, 1965-68, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Secretary of State for Scotland, 1967-77, and Honorary President of the Scottish Polish Cultural Association. His links with the Polish community were a part of his life,

as was his work for Enthalp, a charity concerned with the mentally handicapped. Hugh Stewart, its Deputy Director, pointed out that it was in recognition of his efforts for those with learning disabilities that Enthalp's office and leisure facilities have been named Curran House.

"Curran had a powerful combination of pragmatism, passion and vision," says Sir William Stewart, formerly the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser. "Scotland is much the poorer for his passing."

Tam Dalyell

Samuel Crowe Curran, physicist and university administrator; born Ballymena, Co Antrim 23 May 1912; FRSE 1947; FRS 1953; Principal, Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow 1959-64; Chairman, Advisory Committee on Medical Research 1962-75; Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University 1964-80; Chief Scientific Adviser to the Secretary of State for Scotland 1967-77; married 1940 Joan Strothers (three sons, one daughter); died Glasgow 15 February 1998.

Todd Duncan

IN LATE 1934 George Gershwin, in the process of creating his masterpiece, *Porgy and Bess*, wrote to the librettist DuBose Heyward:

Here is an exciting bit of news. I heard about a man singer who teaches music in Washington and arranged for him to come and sing for me. In my opinion he is the closest to a coloured Tibetan I have ever heard. He is about six foot tall and very well proportioned with a rich, booming voice. He would make a superb Crown and, I think, just as good a Porgy.

The composer had in fact found his Porgy. Gershwin had originally been so taken with the idea of starring Lawrence Tibbett, then at the height of his fame as a baritone at the Metropolitan Opera House, that he had considered having Tibbett perform in blackface, but his discovery of Duncan solved all problems. Duncan, like his Bess (Anne Brown) and the rest of the opera's cast, was not experienced on the operatic stage but, the lyricist Ira Gershwin later said, "brought a humour and pathos to the role which helped considerably to humanise Porgy, making him dignified but not maudlin."

For his part, Duncan was not sure that he wanted to sing Gershwin. "I was a bit of a stuffed shirt," he stated later, "and thought of George Gershwin as being Tin Pan Alley and something beneath me."

He was born Robert Todd Duncan in 1903 in Danville, Kentucky, and attended Butler University and the College of Music and Fine Arts in Indianapolis, receiving a master's degree in voice from Columbia University. In 1929 he went to New York to study, becoming a Professor of Voice at Howard University in Washington DC in 1931.

It was while singing the role of Alfio in an all-black production of *Cavalleria Rusticana* at the Mecca Temple on 55th Street, New York, that he was heard by the music critic Olin Downes, who recommended him to Gershwin. At his audition he sang a little-known Italian



Duncan: 'I was in heaven... I have worked on my art for years waiting for this'

aria by Secchi, "Lungi Dal Caro Bene", which impressed the composer. "Every other singer," said Gershwin, "had sung spirituals or 'Old Man River'."

When Gershwin said to him, "Will you be my Porgy?" the wary Duncan replied, "I don't know. I'd have to hear your music." When George and Ira later performed their Porgy songs for Duncan he had no doubts. "I was in heaven," he said. "Those beautiful melodies in this new idiom – it was some-

thing I had never heard. By the time they got to Porgy's final song 'I'm On My Way' I was weeping." He wrote in a letter to Gershwin, "I have seriously worked on my art for years waiting for a serious work like this, open to the serious Negro artists."

Directed by Rouben Mamoulian, *Porgy and Bess* opened on 10 October 1935 in New York and had a mixed reception – while drama critics generally praised the piece, music critics were worried about its hybrid

nature and the presence of hit tunes which they felt compromised its position as an opera. It ran for a modest 134 performances. When it was revived in 1942, again with Duncan and Browne as leads, audiences had come to know many of its great songs and with recitatives cut and a smaller production it was a hit, running for 35 weeks and touring successfully.

In between these productions, Duncan had starred in London opposite Edna Best in

the thriller *The Sun Never Sets*, and in 1941, at the request of the director Mamoulian, he had played the Lord's Messenger, sent to earth to encourage the reformation of the gambler "Little Joe", in the Vernon Duke/John LaRoche bit *Cabin in the Sky*. Four years later Duncan became the first black artist to appear with the New York City Opera when he sang the role of Tonio in *Pagliacci*.

When Alan Paton's poetic novel set in South Africa, *Cry the Beloved Country*, was turned into a Broadway musical, *Lost in the Stars*, by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson in 1949 (with Mamoulian again as director), Duncan starred as the preacher who forms a bond with the father of a young white liberal who has been killed by the preacher's son. Though the static and harrowing show was not commercially successful, Duncan's songs included the popular title number and the critic Robert Garland wrote: "The beauty and simplicity of *Cry the Beloved Country* infrequently comes through. Only Todd Duncan seems to sense the novel's artful artlessness."

The show was Duncan's last, but in the 1955 film *Unchained* he played the inmate of a minimum security prison and introduced the hit song "Unchained Melody", which was nominated for an Academy Award.

Duncan continued to teach at Howard University and as a concert singer performed arias and *Lieder* in more than 2,000 performances in 56 countries. Married since 1934 to Gladys Jackson, a teacher, he continued to give singing lessons at his home in Washington until recently.

Tom Vallance

Robert Todd Duncan, singer; born Danville, Kentucky 12 February 1903; married 1934 Gladys Jackson (one son); died Washington DC 28 February 1998.

Judge Rolv Ryssdal

ROLV RYSSDAL, President of the European Court of Human Rights from 1985 until his death, was an outstanding individual who made exceptional contributions to justice. A jurist of distinction occupying the highest domestic and international offices, Ryssdal remained a pleasant, unassuming and charming person without any pomposity.

Ryssdal started judicial work as a junior district judge in Norway in 1940. A judge by day, by night he played an active role in the Norwegian resistance to Nazi occupation, which led to his being detained from December 1943 until his country was liberated. The experience of living under totalitarianism, enduring deep injustice and imprisonment, he spoke little about, but it was reflected in his later judgments and speeches about the purpose of the European Convention on Human Rights.

After the Second World War, Ryssdal had a meteoric legal career, working successively for the state and as an advocate in private practice, culminating in serving in the key administrative role as Secretary General in the Ministry of Justice. In 1969, he became Chief Justice of Norway's Supreme Court, a post he held for some 15 years. In 1973, he first became a Judge of the European Court of Human Rights. At that time the court had few cases, averaging around one a year; just 17 rulings had been delivered when he joined the court. In 1979, his fellow judges elected him Vice-President of the court and in 1985 he was elected its President.

The volume of cases before the court increased massively during the 25 years Ryssdal served as Judge and particularly during his presidency. By his death some 733 judgments had been delivered, some 632 when he was President.

At a ceremony to honour his memory last week, Rudolf Bernhardt, Vice-President of the court, did not exaggerate in describing Rolv Ryssdal's posi-



Ryssdal: a position unique in international court history

tion as unique in the history of any international court and in stating, "Rarely can one man have played such a prominent role in a system of justice, be it international or national."

A number of features stand out from Ryssdal's presidency. He had a fine legal mind, of course, but above all he displayed the balance and good sense which mark out the best judges. His period as President coincided with new states becoming party to the Convention on Human Rights; some of these had grave human-rights problems. On such cases, the court has been firm in upholding the international standards which the convention was created to provide.

Ryssdal played a pivotal role in promoting institutional reform, which comes to fruition this November with the establishment of the full-time court. Ryssdal pressed for all the standards in the convention and its protocols to be accepted, including Protocol No 6 on the abolition of the death penalty. He frequently stressed the importance of domestic judges being able to give effect to

fundamental rights themselves. At a public lecture in London 18 months ago, Ryssdal answered criticism of some in Britain that the European Court of Human Rights had overstepped its remit or misjudged the correct balance between public interest and protection of the individual. He stressed that many of the cases which came to Strasbourg from the United Kingdom only did so because our judges could not apply the convention directly. He strongly favoured their being permitted to do so, stressing that it was best for balancing rights and the public interest to be done at the national level. I know that he was personally delighted that this will happen soon in the UK when the Human Rights Bill is enacted.

Peter Duffy

Rolv Einar Ryssdal, judge; born Bergen, Norway 27 October 1914; Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Norway 1969-84; Judge, European Court of Human Rights 1973-98; Vice-President 1981-85, President 1985-98; married 1954 Signe Sævi (two sons, one daughter); died Oslo 18 February 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

HENSTRIDGE: On 25 February 1998, in Washington DC, to Catherine (nee Mulline) and Mark, a son, Jacob William.

MORRIS: On 25 February 1998, at Bay View Hospital, Barbados, to Alison (nee Wainwright) and Richard, a son, Charles Edward Reford.

DEATHS

HARRIS: Donald D., aged 69, of Verwood, Dorset. Suddenly on 26 February 1998. Funeral Monday 9 March. Enquiries to Harry James Ltd FD, 01202 394340.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen will be in London at the Palace of Westminster, 10 March, to receive the Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Royal Society, and the Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Society of Medicine. The Queen will also receive the Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Society of Medicine. The Queen will also receive the Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Changing of the Guard – The Household Cavalry Mounted Band plays the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

Birthdays

Mr Ernest Bradbury, writer and broadcaster, 79; The Hon Peter Brooke MP, 64; Sir George Gardiner, former MP, 63; Mr David Glenross, former chief executive, ITC, 62; Dr Red Hackett, past President, RIBA, 58; Mrs Joan Humble MP, 47; Mr Takashi Ishihara, councillor, Nissan Motor Co, 56; Mr Martin Lovett, musician and teacher, 71; Mr Maurice Lynn, former Headmaster, the Oratory School, 47; Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, former Lord Provost and Lord-Lieutenant of Edinburgh, 66; Air Vice-Marshal Charles Maughan, 75; Lord Mellish, former government minister, 53; Professor Neil Merritt, former Vice-Chancellor, Portsmouth University, 59; Mr James Miller, Headmaster, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, 48; Mr Steve Morrison, Chief Executive, Granada Media Group, 51; Mr Peter O'Sullivan, racing commentator, 30; Sir Mark Prescott, racehorse trainer, 50; Miss Miranda Richardson, 40; Mr Ronald Searle, artist and cartoonist, 78; Lord Templeman, a former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 78; Miss Fatima Whitehead, javelin thrower, 37; Mr Mike Wood MP, 52.

Anniversaries

Births: Edmund Waller, poet, 1606; Thomas Otway, playwright, 1652; William Godwin, novelist and political writer, 1756; John Austin, author and jurist, 1790; William Charles Macready, actor and manager, 1793; Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, 1847; Arthur Leveyn Jones Machen, poetist, actor and journalist, 1863; Sir Henry Joseph Wood, founder of Promenade

Concerts, 1869; Philip Edward Thomas, poet and critic, 1878; Jean Harlow (Harlean Carpenter), actress, 1911; Deafest Robert Hood, physicist, 1703; William Stukeley, antiquary and physician, 1765; Robert Adam, architect, 1732; Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, painter and engraver, 1804; Antony Vandyke Copkey Foulding, landscape painter, 1853; Sir Sidney Lee, editor and biographer, 1926; Arthur Koestler, author, 1903; Danny Kaye (Daniel David Karmansky), actor and entertainer, 1897. On this day: *Bess's* *Carmen* was first performed at the Opera Comique, Paris, 1875; Italian Somalia and fell to the British army, 1941; one of the world's worst air disasters occurred when a Turkish DC-10 crashed after take-off from Paris, with the loss of 346 lives, 1974; Estonia and Latvia voted to secede from the Soviet Union, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Aetred of Rievaulx, St Anselm of Nonnecro, St Arthelais, St Chel, St Cernegund, St Emericus, St Gervinus, St Martinus and Asprinus, St Non or Nonnita and St Winwaloe or Gueuolc.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Amelia Fearn, "Silver and the Rituals of the Dining Table", 5.30pm. **London School of Economics:** Dr M. Umer Chapra, "Islamic Economics: a new paradigm", 5.30pm. **RIBA:** (66 Portland Place, London W1): Chris Wise, "Simplicity Is", 6.30pm. **Leicester University:** Professor David Field, "Babies, Bags of Sugar and the Art of the Possible", 5.30pm.

LAW REPORT: 3 MARCH 1998

Legal aid board could refuse to meet claims

Regina v Legal Aid Board, ex parte Rafique; Queen's Bench Division, Crown Office List (Mr Justice Latham) 12 February 1998

THE LEGAL Aid Board was entitled to refuse to meet claims made by a solicitor under the green form scheme in respect of work undertaken by a self-employed consultant where that work had been inadequately supervised. Where an appeal against such a refusal was dismissed by the board's area committee, the committee should give its reasons.

The court dismissed an application for judicial review of decisions of the Legal Aid Board arising out of claims made by the applicant firm of solicitors under the green form scheme.

The board became concerned about the claims being made by the applicant under the green form scheme, noting that one person, under the

reference AF, appeared to have been working for more than 24 hours a day, and that the claims appeared to be almost pro forma.

The firm's sole principal stated that the work had been carried out by a Mr Farah, and that the hours claimed did not reflect the work carried out by him, but by a number of clerks or associates employed by him on an *ad hoc* basis, and paid by him from his own earnings. His arrangement with the applicant was that he worked as a self-employed consultant and was paid a commission of 35 per cent of the fee income received by the applicant.

Rabinder Singh (Irwin Mitchell) for the applicant; Charles Uley (Legal Aid Board) for the respondent.

Mr Justice Latham said that the board had taken the view that the level of supervision of Mr Farah did not meet the requirements of regulation 20 of

the Legal Advice and Assistance Regulations 1989, which provided that:

nothing in these regulations shall prevent a solicitor from entrusting any function under these regulations to a partner of his or to a competent and responsible representative of his who is employed in his office or is otherwise under his immediate supervision.

A block on payments out of the legal aid fund had been placed on the applicant's account. The board had subsequently re-determined the applicant's claims at nil, and she had appealed to the area committee, which had not been satisfied that she had entrusted the work to competent and responsible representatives employed in her office, nor that those persons had been under appropriate supervision.

The applicant had then

appealed to the Costs Appeal Committee, which had upheld the area committee's decision, holding that the words "employed in his office" in regulation 20 referred to those persons employed by the solicitor under the normal principles of employment, including payment of PAYE; that self-employed persons carrying out some work within a solicitor's office, or outside the office, must be under the solicitor's immediate supervision; and that costs claimed for work undertaken in breach of regulation 20 would be disallowed. That interpretation of regulation 20 was correct.

The applicant had also submitted that the decisions of the area committee and the Costs Appeal Committee should be quashed because of the failure of the area committee to give reasons for its decision. Although there was no statutory

obligation upon the area committee to give reasons, it was right that the appeal structure in a case such as the present made it clear that reasons should be given, leaving aside any general principles of fairness.

There were two stages in the appeal process which made the giving of reasons necessary. The first was the point at which a solicitor had to consider whether or not to apply to the committee to certify a point of principle or general importance, and the second was when, in order to make a decision as to the correctness of the area committee's decision, the Costs Appeal Committee would need to know the area committee's conclusions of fact. In the present case, however, no prejudice had been caused to the applicant by the failure to give reasons.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

19/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER
NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Overseas Investment Trust head quits after arbitrageurs move in

By Lea Paterson

THE CHAIRMAN of the Overseas Investment Trust (OIT), which is managed by Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, has unexpectedly resigned over proposals to convert the £190m company into a unit trust.

Richard Heseltine is fundamentally opposed to the forthcoming "unitisation" of OIT, forced upon the trust's managers by two New York-based arbitrageurs.

The two arbitrageurs - trading under the names Liverpool Limited Partnership and Westgate Interna-

tional Limited Partnership - bought a 15 per cent stake in OIT just before the company's December AGM. The bulk of the shares were bought from the Liverpool and Victoria Friendly Society, which put its 14 per cent stake up for sale after the investment manager originally handling the trust was declared bankrupt and resigned. The arbitrageurs then used their voting rights to force a "discontinuation vote" through at the AGM.

Every year, OIT shareholders vote on whether to continue with the company. The process is usually a formality, but this year, the arbitrageurs managed to push through a "no" vote. As a result, the board of OIT will later this week suggest to shareholders that the company be converted to a unit trust. OIT is expected to be liquidated.

Since the AGM, the two arbitrageurs have increased their stake to 21 per cent. Other arbitrageurs, including Sierra Trading - which last year forced the liquidation of Kleinwort Benson's Overseas Investment Trust - and Tokkei Bank have also bought shares.

The probable conversion of OIT to a unit trust is part of a wider industry trend. Investment trusts - quoted companies which invest in stocks on behalf of their shareholders - have fallen out of favour in recent years. This tailing-off in demand for investment trust shares has led to a widening "discount", or difference

between the value of the shares in the investment trust and the net asset value of the shares - the value of the underlying investments.

More and more arbitrageurs have been seeking to exploit these widening discounts by buying up large stakes in investment trusts then demanding these companies convert into unit trusts. When the conversion process is complete, arbitrageurs can sell out, receive the net asset value of their shares, and make a tidy profit.

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PacifiCorp raises Eastern stakes with £4.35bn bid

By Michael Harrison

THE TWO-WAY battle for control of Eastern, England's biggest electricity supplier, reached fever pitch last night after the US utility PacifiCorp came back with an increased \$20p-a-share bid valuing its parent company Energy Group at £4.35bn.

The bid topped an agreed \$10p offer tabled earlier in the day by PacifiCorp's US rival Texas Utilities. PacifiCorp, which already has regulatory clearance to bid for Energy Group, also disclosed that its advisers Goldman Sachs had bought up 8.6 per cent of Energy Group in a market raid.

Texas said last night it was considering whether to come back with a higher offer.

The frantic activity sets the scene for a bitter battle between the two US utilities for Energy Group. Its shares rose 28p to 80p last night as the markets calculated that the latest bid was unlikely to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and are likely to rise further today.

Eastern is set to become the eighth regional electricity company to fall under US ownership. Assuming one of the two rival

bids goes through, it will be the fifth time that ownership of Eastern has changed hands since it was privatised in 1990.

Texas has agreed to sell Energy Group's US coal business Peabody to Lehman Brothers Merchant Banking for \$2.3bn (£1.4bn) if the takeover goes through. PacifiCorp, which already has substantial US coal interests, would retain Peabody.

The Texas bid is being funded through a \$10.3bn debt facility arranged by Chase Manhattan, Lehman and Merrill Lynch and would create a combined business with debts of \$18bn. After the disposal of Peabody and the planned issue of new equity, Texas would have debts of some \$14bn and a debt-equity ratio of 155 per cent.

Eric Nye, chairman of Texas, said none of the funding would be in the form of junk bonds and that Eastern would be ring fenced with an independent credit facility and access to low-cost capital. "We will be a net investor in Eastern and we will not be taking funds out of the enterprise," added Mr Nye.

Should PacifiCorp come back with another increased offer then the takeover battle is likely

to become even more heated. Mr Nye described reports circulating before his bid that Texas was anti-union as "an unadmitted lie" and defended its record of running nuclear plants in the US.

PacifiCorp began the auction for Energy Group last June, bidding 69p or £3.7bn. The bid was referred to the MMC by the President of the Board of Trade Margaret Beckett in July and cleared last December.

Mr Nye said he was confident that the bid would escape an MMC referral. Texas, he said, had agreed to abide by all the conditions attached by the Office of Fair Trading to a PacifiCorp takeover of Energy Group.

Texas executives have briefed Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, and a number of MPs on the bid. But they have not sought any formal guidance from the Office of Fair Trading or approached the Department of Trade and Industry.

Texas wants to keep Energy Group's senior management on board although there are doubts about whether Mr Devaney will stay long-term once ownership changes hands.

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Sparks fly in electricity bid battle

PACIFICORP

Old Price	\$20p
Old Value	\$4.35bn
Bid Strategy	Det/junk bonds
Advisers	Goldman Sachs
Profile:	
Headquarters:	Portland, Oregon
Revenues:	\$4.3bn
Net Income:	\$455m
Market Cap:	\$5.5bn

Electricity supplier to 1.4m customers in seven US states.

Archer's 120 largest coal producers. Also owns electricity generating and distribution interests in Victoria, Australia.

TEXAS UTILITIES

Old Price	\$16p
Old Value	\$4.3bn
Bid Strategy	Det/junk bonds
Advisers	Lehman Bros/Merrill Lynch
Profile:	
Headquarters:	Dallas, Texas
Revenues:	\$8bn
Net Income:	\$850m
Market Cap:	\$5.5bn

International integrated power generator and supplier with 1.3 million electricity customers and 1.3 million gas customers in Texas and 1.3m electricity customers in Victoria, Australia.

Eastern: Takeover target

31 July 1995: Eastern launches agreed £2.5bn bid for Eastern Electricity, one of the regional electricity companies set up at privatisation in 1990.

24 February 1997: The Energy Group, which combines Eastern with Hanson's Peabody US coal business, makes its debut on the London Stock Exchange after merger from Hanson.

19 June 1997: PacifiCorp launches its first £3.7bn agreed bid at 69p per share.

1 August 1997: Government refers the acquisition to Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the bid automatically lapses.

18 December 1997: PacifiCorp is cleared to bid.

29 January 1998: The Energy Group confirms to take with other offers.

27 January 1998: Texas Utilities confirms it is also in talks.

28 January 1998: Monopolies Commission, the London Unit of Eastern Electricity, confirms it is also in talks.

7 February 1998: PacifiCorp announces increased bid of £4.35bn (80p per share) agreed with The Energy Group.

28 February 1998: PacifiCorp gains US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval after submitting to capital markets.

19 February 1998: American International puts offer of £1.5bn.

11 February 1998: Texas Utilities gains Public Utility Commission (PUC) conditional approval to take bid.

18 February 1998: PacifiCorp gains Federal Trade Commission (FTC) approval for bid, the last regulatory hurdle it had to pass.

2 March 1998: 7.2m anti-Texas Utilities launches £4.35bn (£10p) per share which is agreed by The Energy Group. The deal involves the sale of Peabody (coal) for £2.3bn (£1.4bn).

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Inchcape plans split-up to halt shares slump

By Peter Thal Larsen

Inchcape, the distribution and marketing group, yesterday announced plans to break itself into three parts in an attempt to reverse the recent slide in its share price.

The company, which has been hit by upheaval in its Asian markets, plans to spin off its Latin American Coca-Cola bottling operations and its Asian marketing division as separate companies, leaving Inchcape to concentrate on its main motor distribution business.

At the same time, Inchcape said it was in talks to sell its Russian bottling operations, which have been suffering heavy losses, to Coca-Cola.

Its shipping business has also been put up for sale as part of the plans which will see it sell or spin off about 20 per cent of its businesses.

After the disposals and demergers are completed next year, Philip Cushing, the chief executive and Les Cullen, the finance director, will leave the company. Sir Colin Marshall will stay on as chairman of the remaining motors business, which will retain the Inchcape name.

The demergers complete a huge restructuring programme initiated by Sir Colin when he took over the helm of the company two years ago. In that time, Inchcape has sold Bain Hogg, the insurance broker, and its testing services business, and spent millions reorganising its remaining operations.

However, the shares have failed to respond to the changes. When the Asian crisis hit they slumped to a low of 137p, down from a 307p in May, Sir Colin said: "The demergers and divestments are designed to deliver to shareholders the true underlying value of the Group, which we do not believe is reflected in the current market price."

Mr Cushing said that the

complexity of Inchcape's three businesses had confused investors. "Removing the cloak of diversity will allow shareholders to make more informed decisions."

The City welcomed the move, pushing the shares up 22.5p to 211p on the news. Analysis calculated that, valued independently, the three businesses produced a sum of the parts valuation of at least 250p per Inchcape share. "It's quite revolutionary," said Tony Sheppard, analyst with Greig Middleton & Co. "Obviously there is value there and they are hoping to realise it."

Inchcape plans to float the Latin American bottling operations on the Chilean stock exchange later this year. Mr Cushing said the move made sense because the Chilean Stock Exchange already plays host to several similar businesses, all of which trade on price/earnings multiples "in the 20s." Last year, Inchcape's bottling unit made operating profits of £13m, though this included £7m of start-up losses in Russia.

Inchcape acknowledged that British shareholders, who own 80 per cent of the company's shares, would probably not want to own shares in firms listed in Chile and Asia. However, the company said it would do "whatever is necessary" to make sure that shareholders could participate in the companies. And analysts said that a flotation may not be necessary, as Inchcape might be able to sell the businesses to trade buyers.

Inchcape's board first discussed splitting the company up last year, after deciding to concentrate on the main motor distribution operations. Asked why he had effectively worked himself out of a job, Mr Cushing said: "When I took over I expected to be in charge for many years. But I have to accept the conclusion that we no longer need a chief executive."

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SmithKline told to find partner

By Andrew Yates

SmithKline Beecham faces an uphill struggle to convince its shareholders that it should remain independent in the wake of the collapse of merger talks with fellow drugs giant Glaxo Wellcome.

A number of fund managers yesterday called on the group to seek other merger partners to recoup the value lost from the termination of the Glaxo deal.

Meanwhile, Glaxo Wellcome is to continue to lobby its shareholders to support a no-premium bid for SmithKline, despite the fact that institutions are divided on the merits of such a deal, it emerged yesterday.

Several large institutional shareholders are willing to support such a hostile bid, but others believe the potential obstacle of writing off £45bn of goodwill which could result from a takeover is too much to overcome.

Glaxo has ruled out the idea of offering a large premium for SmithKline after an outcry from some of its largest shareholders which have indicated they would resist such a move. They are against such a bid as it will destroy much of the extra value that could result from a merger.

Glaxo's advisers are understood to be confident they can overcome the goodwill problem by structuring the deal to avoid liabilities.

Another idea suggested by investors would be to produce separate accounts, one stating the "clean" underlying earnings figures and another including the effect of goodwill write-offs.

"We want our £15bn of value back and we will consider any way to get it," said one shareholder in both SmithKline and Glaxo. Both companies face a testing time over the coming weeks in their attempts to justify the breakdown in talks. It seems clear that the future of Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline, and Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo, will be called into doubt if they cannot give dispel the feeling among many institutions that the collapse of the merger had more to do with a clash of egos than management culture.

"If they cannot give us a good reason why this deal broke down we could call on the non-executives to assert their authority and maybe we could still get a merger," said one shareholder. However, other institutions believe all hopes for a deal are dead.

WH Smith linked with bid for Menzies

By Nigel Cope

RIVAL BIDDERS including WH Smith are thought to have entered the fray for the retail business of John Menzies which was put up for sale in January. Alchemy, the venture capital group, was front runner to buy the chain in a deal worth around £55m. However, it is understood that the sale has been delayed by two rival suitors which have come in with higher offers.

There was speculation yesterday that the other bidders could include WH Smith as well as retailers from continental Europe. Forbays and T&S Stores may also be interested.

WH Smith would not comment on any possible interest in John Menzies saying it was simply "market rumour". However, the deal would make sense as Smiths is Menzies' main rival and is selling off several businesses to concentrate on its core high street chain and its news distribution operation.

Smiths will announce today the sale of its The Wall music

stores in the US to American group Camelot for £28m. Last week it agreed to sell its Waterstock's books business to a consortium headed by Tim Waterstone for £300m. It also intends to sell its stake in Virgin Orice, the music retailer.

The purchase of the 232 John Menzies stores would strengthen Smiths' position on the high street and increase its market share in its preferred markets such as books and stationery. It could achieve cost savings via the closure of the

group's head office and synergies through greater buying power.

However, such a deal might run into competition problems because of the powerful positions of the two retailers in the newspaper and magazines markets. Though Smiths is keen to expand in these sectors, the competition authorities may regard a Smiths-Menzies deal as restricting consumer choice. If Smiths bought Menzies it would also be the dominant player in railway stations and airports.

Mr Cushing said that the

building products business in the US and Australia while the other major disposal victim is Formica, based in Cincinnati. But it has not been all disposals.

In October the company spent £361m buying Exide Electronics, a US-based manufacturer of power supply systems. The move failed to boost a sagging share price.

Last December BTR warned that second half results would be hit by the strength of sterling and economic downturns in the Far East and South America. This wiped £1bn off the value of its shares.

Most analysts expect Thursday's results to show pre-tax profits of a shade over the £1bn mark compared with £1.5bn last time.

But one said: "With BTR's record you never take anything for granted."

Most City forecasters expect a very slight deterioration in 1998 results over 1997 figures. BTR watchers say the company's management will only be treated more favourably when it not only completes its sales programme but also shows that it can run a going concern at a premium.

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STOCK MARKETS

Indices	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Vol
FTSE 100	5820.80	33.30	0.57	5821.80	4189.10	5.16
FTSE 100	5820.80	33.30	0.57	5821.80	4189.10	5.16
FTSE 250	3254.80	23.50	0.73	3255.80	2075.70	5.13
FTSE 350	2707.81	24.41	0.91	2708.81	2182.10	2.81
FTSE All Share	2707.20	10.00	0.37	2708.20	2182.20	3.20



OUTLOOK ON US BIDS FOR UK RECS, HOW RICHARD HESELTINE WAS HOUNDED OUT AT OIT AND INCHCAPE'S PLANNED BREAK-UP

Eastern promise brings on a bidding war

WHO said that the Americans' appetite for British electricity companies was on the wane? Two bids in a day for Eastern, the biggest of them all, shows that not even the threat of a profit cap has dulled the taste of the US utilities. While Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, ponders the situation, shareholders in Energy Group, Eastern's parent company, can sit back and enjoy the ride.

PacificCorp, which popped out of the Oregon woods with an \$20p offer last night, bagging 8.6 per cent of the company in the process, already has regulatory clearance. Texas Utilities, which bid \$10p earlier in the day, does not. But unless Mrs Blockit can come up with a plausible excuse for packing Texas Utilities off to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (dislike of the Dallas Cowboys is not sufficient grounds), then it is open season.

Energy group's shareholders cannot believe their luck. Nine months ago the business was worth only 56p a share. Not much has changed since then. It still consists of a bombed out US coal business and a British utility facing an unpleasant regulatory outlook. And yet the group is worth 45 pence more.

The official position last night from the Texas camp was that it is considering whether to come back with a higher offer. Eric Nye, the Texas chairman, may be a simple soul (aw shucks, I'm just a country boy in the City). But even he can see that the auction has to stop sometime.

Long-term interest rates have fallen since the bidding auction began last June, which means the Americans can debt fi-

nance higher offers. But even so they must be close to overpaying and putting a mighty strain on their balance sheets. Which ever bidder wins this one will need to be regulated like a bank to make sure Eastern is not raided to pay the price.

Small holders lose out in trust hunt

INVESTMENT TRUSTS are hardly yet an endangered species. At *The Independent*, and in most other national newspapers, more listings of investment trusts are carried than for any other sector. Even so, these usually inoffensive creatures are being hunted as never before. Nor are we talking here about the relatively harmless antics of the countryside alliance. The hunters in this case, are arbitrageurs, generally of the overseas variety, and they come armed not with horse and hound but with kalashnikovs and magnifying glasses.

The latest investment trust to fall victim to their money making ends is Overseas Investment Trust, a £200m trust managed by Morgan Grenfell Trust Management. Just before Christmas, a group of US based arbitrageurs bought into the trust and forced the board to bring forward proposals for unitising its assets. Yesterday the trust's chairman, Richard Heseltine, resigned in disgust, saying he could play no further part in the process. What's going on here?

There's nothing new in what OIT is being subjected to. Nearly all investment trusts trade at a discount to their net as-

set value. That discount can be eliminated through unitisation. A turn is to be had by forcing the process. How big a turn depends on the size of the discount.

The curious thing about this trust is that it is so small. Normally, arbitrageurs target performing trusts which trade at big discounts. But actually OIT hasn't done badly at all in recent years, consistently recording double-digit gains in capital value. The arbitrageurs were therefore forced to buy in at a discount of just 9 per cent. By the time liquidation costs are taken into account, they are unlikely to end up with any more than half that - hardly, it might be thought, worth the time value of the investment. Still, if there's a dime in it to be had, an arbitrageur will sell his own grandmother to get it, and since this is the free market, why not?

One reason is that unitisation or liquidation is generally not in the best interests of ordinary, long-term investment trust shareholders. Because investment trusts have independent boards of directors, whose job it is to safeguard the interests of shareholders, their ongoing management costs are generally much lower than a unit trust, whose purpose is that of earning fees for the manager.

Take the example of Kleinwort Benson Overseas Investment Trust, which is also being unitised, again under pressure from arbitrageurs. The trust's annual management charge was a half a per cent of the assets. The Save and Prosper unit trust that will replace it will charge one and a quarter per cent. Furthermore, the new unit trust will invest predominantly in investment trusts, in effect doubling up on the cost of asset

management. The discount may disappear, but it is not clear this compensates long-term investors for the many countervailing advantages of investment trust status.

There's a wider point too. OIT was established so that British investors could invest overseas - not to enable overseas arbitrageurs to strip out the discount and then ship it back to the Bahamas. There's not obviously anything that can be done about all this, but it's a run old business all the same.

Velcro company comes of age

WE LIVE in the age of the Velcro company, a stick 'em together, pull 'em apart world which must be as confusing to the uninitiated as it is logical to the investment banker with his annual bonus to think about. As busily as some companies are merging and consolidating, others are demerging and divesting. Some companies, such as BAT Industries and BTR, seem to be doing both at the same time.

It was Inchcape's turn yesterday to announce a break-up. In an act of selfless sacrifice, this one actually involves the chief executive and the finance director doing themselves out of a job, something of a first. Don't feel too sorry for them though. They'll get a big fat bonus and pay-off for their trouble. So will the investment bankers that put these conglomerates together in the rolling 1980s.

That said, there's plainly industrial and

investment logic in what's going on. The commercial pressure for consolidation and "focus" in industry comes primarily not from management and investment bankers, but from ever more demanding investors and customers. Investors want the greatest possible efficiency in use of their capital.

That in turn requires a degree of clarity and management purpose which is impossible in a group of many different businesses. In a conglomerate, the rate of return becomes fudged and obfuscated - it is possible for the poor performance of one business to hide behind the better performance of another.

The pressure for consolidation goes hand in hand with that of focus. The world becomes ever more competitive. The speed of innovation and enhancement is said to be greater than at any time this century. At the same time there is persistent downward pressure on prices. Consolidation allows corporations to counter these pressures with economies of scale.

It is indicative of how powerful these arguments are that even those of us who believe competition and diversity to be the best guarantee of the wider public interest, accept the inevitability of the process. All the same, we need to be a bit careful here. Most of us swallowed the now discredited arguments for diversification with equal enthusiasm. This time round it seems to be more than just fashion which drives the process. None the less, much of what is now being done in the name of focus and consolidation will turn out to have been equally misguided. Of that there can be no doubt.

Bank at your 'virtual branch in the wall'

By Lea Paterson

In 2010, the global banking industry will be controlled by a handful of customer-friendly financial conglomerates. Banking services will be provided via PCs and telephones, cash dispensers will become "virtual branches in the wall" and, unless they pull their socks up, today's high street clearers will be soundly beaten by the "new banks" such as M&S and Virgin.

These were just some of the conclusions of 10 senior industry figures asked by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (CSFI) to set down their vision of the banking industry in the new millennium.

Herb Aspbury, head of Chase Manhattan's European operations, said there was bound to be consolidation in the industry. "There are far too many of us, trying to do exactly the same things with exactly the same counterparty. One way of dealing with the excess capacity is to keep merging with one's competitors," he said.

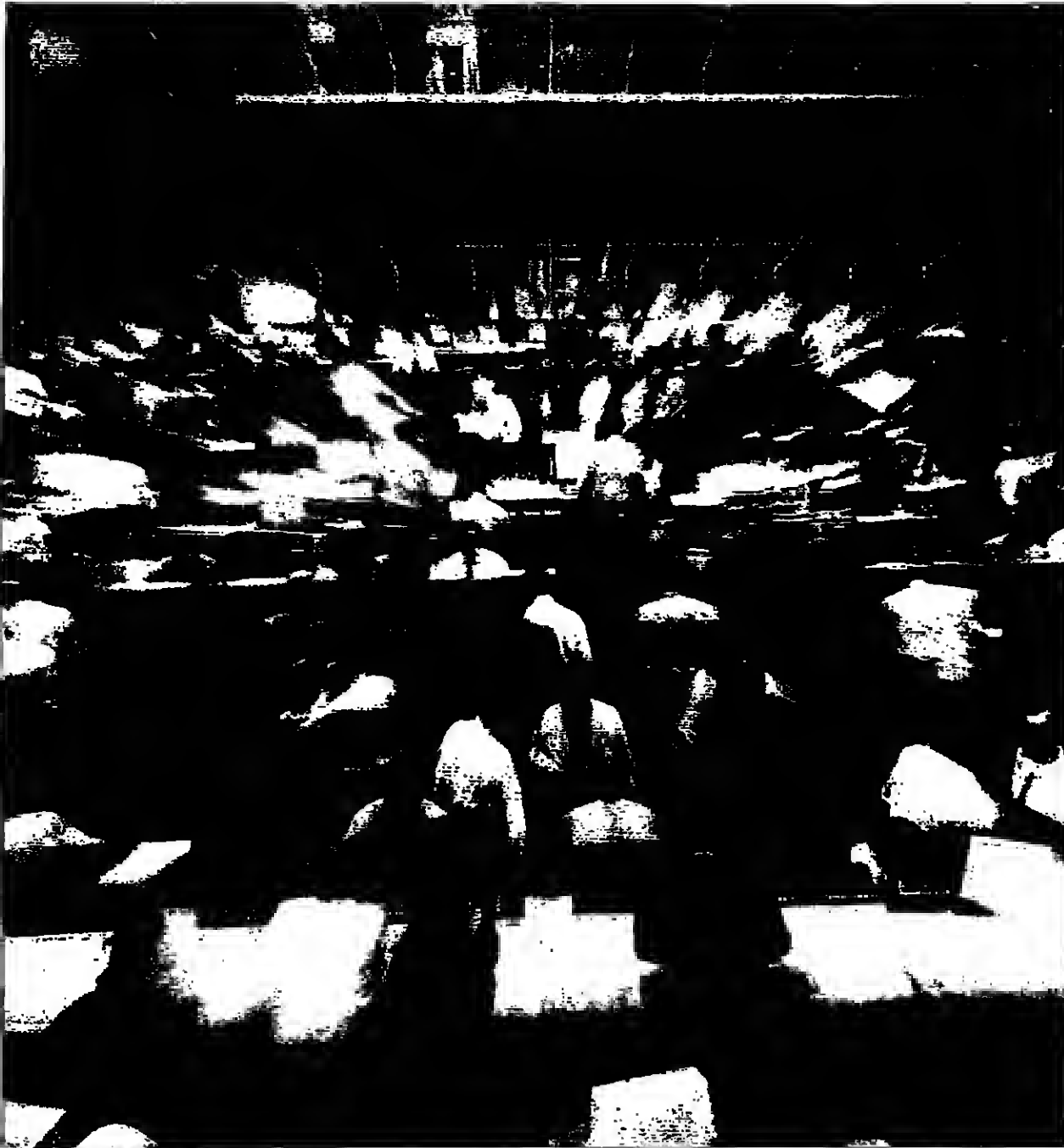
There is unlikely to be a cross-border merger of "any great magnitude" in the near future, said Mr Aspbury. However, when the cross-border merger wave does start, Chase will certainly play a part in it. "There is scope for co-ordi-

nation between Chase and a European bank," he said, adding, "We [Chase] look at everything."

Peter Birch, who last week stepped down as chief executive of Abbey National, also predicted consolidation would sweep through the financial services industry over the next 10 years. He said the distinction between banks, building societies and insurance companies would become increasingly blurred, resulting in the emergence of a few large banking conglomerates.

For Mr Birch said the key question was not whether consolidation would take place, but whether the traditional players would continue to provide banking services. According to Mr Birch, new entrants into the industry, such as the supermarkets, would succeed in winning sizeable chunks of market share.

Some of the industry figures consulted by CSFI believe banks as we know them will virtually disappear. According to Peter Cochrane, head of research at BT, "the modest ATM [cash dispenser] of today could well become the virtual branch-in-the-wall of tomorrow". If today's providers of banking services are going to survive, they must change and move on, Mr Cochrane said.



Flurry of activity: A zoom lens shows traders at work on the Frankfurt stock exchange yesterday. The 30-share DAX index ended bourse trade up 26.91 points at 4,736.74

Inflation soars to 23-year high in Indonesia

INDONESIA'S inflation rate accelerated to 32 per cent in February - its highest in 23 years - as the devaluation of the rupiah and a lingering drought drove prices for food and clothing higher, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

Analysts said the rate of inflation had put the Indonesian government's full-year inflation target of 20 per cent out of reach, and predicted prices would have risen by 50 per cent or more by the end of the year.

"The threat of hyper inflation is very real, and puts market attention back on the urgency of measures needed to address this," ANZ Investment Bank wrote in a report yesterday. The annual inflation rate accelerated from 18.07 per cent in the previous month as the consumer price index, the key measure of inflation, rose to 255.06 points from 193.59 in February of last year. The monthly change in the index jumped to 12.76 per cent in February from January's 6.9 per cent rise from December. Consumer prices rose just 1.07 per cent in February of 1997.

Analysts said the government's official figures tend to understate price rises. "This is just the reported figure, can you imagine what it's really like out in the villages?" said Jimmy Koh, a regional econ-

omist at Independent Economic Analysis in Singapore. "I was looking at 50 per cent for the full year before this number. Now I'll probably revise it higher."

There was little relief in sight for Indonesia, which has been battered by the 73 per cent decline in the rupiah in the past year, which has cast a light on how much the country has relied on imported goods.

Chicken breeders have gone out of businesses because they can't afford imported chicken feed anymore, drug prices have started to soar and aluminium soda cans, which are made with imported metal, are in short supply.

State electricity company PT Perusahaan Listrik Umum Negara says it cannot afford to pay full price for the coal and natural gas it uses to fire its plants and has warned it could go out of business if the government doesn't allow it to almost double electricity prices soon.

The rising price of power will in turn be reflected in almost every good manufactured here.

In February, food prices rose 16.07 per cent from the previous month, housing prices rose 10.03 per cent, clothing and textile costs rose 15.62 per cent and service and prices of service and trade rose 9.3 per cent.

Next shares dive as Wolfson announces plans to depart

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

SHARES in Next, the fashion retailer, fell sharply yesterday when the company announced its chairman Lord Wolfson was to step down as chairman after the annual meeting in May. The shares shed 36p to 792.5p even though the group announced that Sir Brian Pittman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, the banking group, has been appointed a non-executive director and will move up to the chair on Lord Wolfson's departure.

Lord Wolfson has been chairman of Next since 1990

and, together with his chief executive David Jones, succeeded in bringing the company back from the brink of financial disaster. Since 1990 the shares have risen from 12.5p as Next became a retail powerhouse and a constituent of the FTSE 100.

Analysts said the fall in Next shares was due in part to disappointment that a merger between Next and Great Universal Stores, where Lord Wolfson is also chairman, had diminished. However, one retail analyst said: "The share price fall is a bit of a surprise as it was expected that Lord Wolfson would step down before long

and not many people really believed that GUS was going to bid for Next anyway." Other analysts said the market was looking for an excuse to take profits.

Lord Wolfson was appointed chairman of GUS in September and is embroiled in a £1.6bn hostile bid for Argos. GUS has also paid £1bn for Experian, the US database group, and signed a £900m property joint venture with British Land. The increasing activity of GUS in the corporate arena has made it difficult for Lord Wolfson to remain as chairman of both companies.

There was speculation yesterday that the wobble in Next



Lord Wolfson: Will step down as chairman in May

shares was due to the departure of Hilary Santell, the group's head of womenswear buying. However, analysts said Ms Santell had left late last year after a riding accident and that there was nothing untoward about her departure.

Dunloe wins Ewart with chairman's aid

THE CHAIRMAN of Ewart, the property company at the centre of a three-way bidding war, yesterday split with the rest of his board and accepted the \$1p share offer from Dunloe House for his 16 per cent stake in the company.

Brian O'Connor said his acceptance of the offer would provide certainty to shareholders as, together with Dunloe's shares and acceptance, it would give Dunloe a majority of the shares in Ewart.

Dunloe already has control of, or has received acceptances for, about 35 per cent of Ewart's shares, including the 26 per cent stake held by Dunloe chairman Noel Smyth.

An added 16 per cent would put Dunloe over the 50 per cent level it needed to gain control.

The acrimonious battle for control of Ewart saw Dunloe and Moyne each put in two bids. The Ewart board yesterday recommended shareholders reject the Dunloe offer and accept the Moyne offer. Both bids value Ewart at about £25.7m.

THE INDEPENDENT

5 Year Superlife Light Bulbs - from only £7.95 for 3

At last you can save time and money by not changing your light bulbs every few months with our Superlife bulbs. The rated life of ordinary bulbs is 1,000 hours, whereas these bulbs last incredibly, at least 5 times that! This is due to a special chemical compound inside the glass which cleans the bulb of oxygen, water vapour and other impurities thereby ensuring a prolonged life of high grade tungsten filament within the bulb.

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LIG looks to expand Durex market in Chinese joint venture

By Teresa Poole
in Peking

THE WORLD'S biggest condom manufacturer has set its sights on the world's largest potential market. London International Group (LIG) yesterday announced the establishment of China's first condom joint venture, a Durex manufacturing operation aimed

at the growing number of relatively wealthy young, urban couples who are limited to one child under the country's strict family planning policies.

Condom usage in China is low, accounting for 4 per cent of contraceptive use. Almost all the 1.22 billion condoms produced annually in China are unbranded products manufactured

by state-owned factories and given away free to married couples. The commercial retail condom market is limited and it is difficult for Chinese to obtain condoms if they are unmarried.

Under yesterday's agreement, LIG will invest \$3.5m (£1.8m) for a 50 per cent share in the joint venture company, Qingdao London International Latex Com-

pany. The Chinese partner is China's second-biggest state condom manufacturer, based in Qingdao, Shandong province. LIG will bring in the latest technology and a management team, with an initial planned production of 158 million Durex condoms a year, of which 20 per cent must be exported and the rest sold in China as branded retail product.

Halifax soars on hopes of more cash windfalls

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Halifax dominated the dealing screens. The building society-mortgage bank surged to a peak, up 31p at 977p. At one time the shares stood at 984p.

Hopes of a bumper payout when the group reports year's figures today were behind the excitement.

There is talk that besides an 18 per cent dividend increase to 17.5p, Halifax will spray as much as 40p a share in the form of a special dividend among its shareholders.

It is stuffed with cash - perhaps as much as £400 above its needs. Some suggest it will accompany its figures, underlying profits should be up 15 per cent at £1.64bn, with a predatory strike.

A host of would-be targets have been mentioned, ranging from unit trust group M&G to a £12bn share exchange with Norwich Union, the insurer which, like Halifax, floated last year.

M&G held at 1,552.5p and

Norwich went to another peak, up 7p at 523p (after 530p).

The rest of the stock market stretched to new highs with Footsie closing for the first time above 5,800 points.

The search for shares overlooked in the long bull run kept prices on the boil. The recent round of corporate action as well as rumours of more to come, a firm New York opening and the feeling interest rates will be pegged again this week were other influences.

Optimism was encouraged by two significant Footsie rises. SG Securities raised its year-end target from 5,350 to 6,000 and Panmure Gordon went from 6,000 to 6,600.

Footsie's volatility, however, was underlined by a late 25.4 fall, leaving the index 53.3 up at 5,820.6.

WPP, the advertising agency, illustrated the way order-driven trading was continuing to heighten the un-

certainly over closing Footsie prices.

Dealings in the shares were suspended as the market closed with the buying price at 310p against 304p on the sell side. It seems a spaghetti-fingered trader pumped in the wrong price and was prevailed upon to withdraw the order during what is known as the "housekeeping" period.

So, after the market had closed, WPP sported not a solitary buy order but a sell at 304p. The last order-driven trade was at 315p and that was regarded as the closing quoted price.

WPP is not a Footsie stock and, therefore, played no part in the index calculation. But, the conglomerate which moved nearer its ambition of becoming a focused engineering group, was the best performing constituent. After a long, depressing underperformance, it jumped 25.75p to 187p, highest since December, following the £22bn

sale of its packaging operations and the promise to return £2bn to shareholders.

Energy, the Eastern electricity group, also contributed to Footsie's camber, gaining 28p to 806p as Thames Utilities offered £4.3bn in cash, adding to the investment community's already overflowing cash coffers.

Building materials contin-

ued to benefit from re-ratings with Blue Circle Industries 38.75p higher at 394p. Merger talk lifted Hayworth 12.5p to 237.5p and rumoured partner Marley gained a further 2p to 112.5p.

Next, following the signalled departure of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale as chairman, fell 36p to 792.5p. He will be replaced by Sir Brian Pittman, chairman of Lloyds TSB. The Wolfson link had been viewed as a possible bridge for a merger between Next and Great Universal Stores, where his lordship is also chairman.

General Electric Co gained 11p to 408p on unsubstantiated talk of a 525p target being set and Renwick Initial climbed 11.25p to 311p on Merrill Lynch support.

Lasers, ahead of investment presentations, flared 10.5p to 286.75p and British Petroleum put on 23p to 861p on Salomon Smith Barney support.

Engineer FKI hardened 15p to 194p as an alleged stock overhang was cleared; Rolls-Royce rose 9.5p to 242p ahead of Thursday's results.

Diageo firmed 14.5p to 638p on reports of a rich Dewar's sale price with Allied Domecq, seeming out of the running, off 18.5p at 567p.

Spring Ram, the bathrooms group reporting today, added 2.75p to 22.75p on reports stockbroker Colin Blackbourn had picked up 1 per cent. However, it could be something of a "spring ram".

Mr Blackbourn, famed for the response to his 3.1 per cent shareholding in Thripole Technology, did have 1 per cent but has since sold most of his shares.

Homesuicide, the fashion group, fell 3p to 15.5p after disclosing it was in refinancing talks.

Speculative buying pushed Cox Insurance 23p higher to 328p. A year ago the shares were 149.5p.

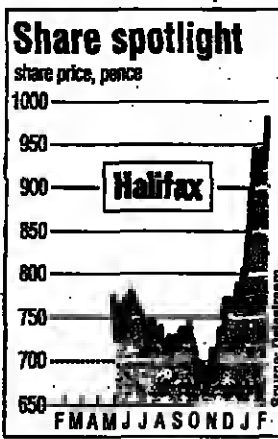
TAKING STOCK

Warner Estates has acquired the 9.5 per cent of the Stockbourn property management group sold by Panther Securities. Stockbourn, formerly Harrovy Leisure, held at 2.75p. It has an £11m joint venture with Warner, off 6p at 269.5p.

British Thornton, the packaging group, was suspended at 25.5p. A software group, Planit, is to be reversed into the company for around £12m, with £9m satisfied by the issue of shares.

Bearing Power, a bearings distributor, rose 4p to 18.5p. It is selling its Canadian operation for £11.2m cash. BP is capitalised at £6.4m.

Fibernet, rolling out a national communications network, jumped 15.5p to 201.5p as stockbroker Greig Middleton forecast it would move into profits with a £6m outcome in its next year.



Share Price Data										The Independent Teleshare - Tel. 0891 - 201 200									
You will have the correct FTSE 100 Index Share Price by a Stock Market Summary Report										You can compare any share to a Real-Time Share Price by buying a plus a 4-digit code for the share on any page.									
To get a Membership Number to enjoy our Periodic Bulletin, please call the Help Desk on 071-729-0288.										For help with the service, including the Periodic Bulletin call the Help Desk on 071-729-0288.									
(FTS plus London SIC code)										Daily Volume: 900,000 trades 8078						Index: 103.56			
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Matador Mayock back in the running

Barnsley's golden boy from the European Indoor Championships shows the same Yorkshire steel as his mentor, says Simon Turnbull

JOHN MAYOCK'S local garage can expect an urgent visit this morning. "I've got a sponsored car," he said yesterday as he prepared to head home from Spain, "which has my name and 'going for gold' on the side. I'll have to change it now to 'got gold'."

The Barnsley man with the golden hair and, since Sunday night, a senior international medal to match, paused to chuckle. Then he added: "Maybe I should have John Mayock. Spanish matador written on it too."

Mayock has always been an affable fellow, too affable, his critics might have said. But in winning the final race of the European Indoor Championships on Sunday night he became the new driving force for British middle-distance running in the manner of a Michael Schumacher.

There was even an official protest lodged against him after the men's 3,000 metres final, questioning his part in the jockeying for pole position that marked the race. But the inquisition on behalf of the three Spaniards left trailing as Mayock sped clear in the final 120m was never likely to overturn the result.

The Valenciennes may have jeered on his lap of honour and turned his medal ceremony into a shameful show of bad-loser-ship but the assertive way in which the 27-year-old executed his victory was as impressive as the win itself. Mayock's was the kind of aggressive, tactically astute and perfectly legitimate run last seen in a British middle-distance man in the form of another red-haired son of South Yorkshire at the tail end of the golden British era.

As he stood cheering at the

side of the Luis Puig track, Peter Elliott must have felt he was watching his old self flash before his eyes. He certainly saw the kind of Yorkshire steel with which he forged his own reputation as the 'tough of the track'. And he had good reason to be glad by the sight.

Elliott was appointed Britain's middle-distance coach at the turn of the year. And since ending a running career that won him Commonwealth gold

Durham Cross-Country meeting. Instead, the spot they had in the North-east mud that day has brought them closer together - and instilled Mayock with the resolve that has made him, seven years after his 5,000m success in the World Student Games, a gold medal winner at senior international level.

"I didn't want John to run," Elliott reflected yesterday. "He was half a stone overweight and he was just there for the money. We had words. But his attitude changed after that."

"It did upset me," Mayock said. "It took a couple of weeks to clear the air. But I knew I needed to get my backside into gear."

Even before Mayock's breakthrough on Sunday, Elliott had been given a real view of his prodigy in the British all-time ranking list for 1500m. The 31m 31.86sec Mayock recorded in Brussels last August moved him to fourth place, behind Steve Cram, Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett but ahead of his mentor.

That it was good enough for only eighth position in a grand prix race confirms that time and times have not stood still. "Middle-distance running has moved on since my day," Elliott acknowledged, "and it hasn't been easy for John, having to follow Coe, Ovett, Cram and myself."

Britain's golden tradition has not been the only thing to which Mayock has been shackled. Elliott left him handcuffed to a park bench on his night in November. The services of the South Yorkshire Fire Brigade were required to get Barnsley's golden boy to the church on time.

GB team for Marrakesh, Digest, page 27



Mayock: Britain's new force in a rich middle-distance tradition



Richard Burns negotiates his Mitsubishi around a corner on his way to victory in the Safari Rally in Nairobi yesterday, by a margin of almost 10 minutes. It was Burns' first world championship victory, and only the third time a British driver has ever won this event. Photograph: Reuters

Wigan and St Helens paired in last eight of Challenge Cup

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

WIGAN and St Helens, opponents so often in knock-out rugby over recent years, have been drawn together again in the quarter-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Saints, the holders for the past two years, must concede home advantage to Wigan, favourites for this year's competition. The London Broncos have the plum draw, at home to the one surviving team from the First Division, Hull Kingston Rovers, whose neighbours, Hull, must go to Salford.

Castleford, the conquerors of Leeds and Bradford, are at home to Sheffield who, like London, are in the last eight for the first time.

The Rugby League has complained to the BBC over the

snubbing of the sport on Saturday night. The tie between Castleford and Bradford is the centrepiece of *Grandstand* but was ignored in the sports round-up on both main BBC1 news bulletins. The League has received a number of adverse comments about the BBC and its broadcast manager, Dave Callaghan, is to take up the matter with the corporation.

The former Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly, is to return to Britain in September, ending his successful association with the Newcastle Knights. Reilly has decided to come home to be near his elderly parents, news that will interest several Super League clubs, in particular St Helens, whose coach, Shaun McRae, is due to end his contract this year.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP quarter-finals: London Broncos v Hull Kingston Rovers; Salford v Hull; Castleford v Sheffield; Wigan v St Helens. (Times to be played 14 or 15 March).

Fruitful gamble in the park

Tennis

By John Roberts

AS THE recipient of \$128,000 (£80,000) after winning the inaugural Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea Park on Sunday, Yevgeny Kafelnikov made all the right moves, hitting the tent peg on the head by saying: "Nobody knows what to expect from a tournament that is being held for the first time."

There were no tent pegs, as it happened, which was perhaps the first pleasant surprise for spectators led to believe that London's first indoor ATP Tour event for eight years was going to be some sort of Barnum and Bailey enterprise.

The temporary arena complex proved to an impressive innovation, blessed, it must be said, with decent weather except on two occasions when high winds flapped the plastic roofing and tested the metal supports.

But for the advent of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman as pillars of the British game, the tournament would not have been conceived. Their participation was interesting while it lasted. Rusedski arrived after winning the Antwerp title and was unable to convert either of his match points against Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner in the first round. Henman, who ended a run of five consecutive defeats by beating Richard Krajicek, lost to Kafelnikov in the third round, a match the British No 2 ought to have won.

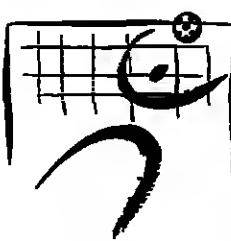
The organisers, who gambled in acquiring the date of the former Milan event for three years, were encouraged by the public's response (a total attendance of 35,000, and a near capacity 4,800 on the Centre Court on both Saturday and Sunday), and noted the lessons to be learned, which included the late night scheduling of the Henman-Krajicek match on Tuesday.

In other respects the attention to detail in creating a spectator-friendly indoor event away from the customary venues was impressive, not least the free shuttle bus service to and from Sloane Square.

The carpet courts, laid on wood, generally suited the big servers, but did not impede Kafelnikov's all-court game. "There is no doubt that the people who are working at this tournament have done a good job," the Russian said. "The one thing that bothered me was the noise from the airplanes." One or two of his fellow players who departed early might have disagreed, appreciating reminders that Heathrow was reasonably close at hand.

Greg Rusedski scored a remarkable victory in the first round of the ATP Tour event in Rotterdam yesterday, beat Karim Alami of Morocco 6-7 7-6 7-6 in a 2hr 20min match without a service break.

PHILIPS EGOTONE



Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes all scores up to February 22nd. The player list includes scores from all games played until February 22nd. Neither set of scores includes results from the FA Cup. Congratulations to Mr N Peet from North Yorkshire who's team Kim's Tigers is this month's winner. Mr Peet wins a pair of tickets to England's next home international.

Every one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in the *Independent on Sunday*.

HOW TO SCORE	
Player score	Points scored by player
Own goal	Points scored by player
Assist	Points scored by player
Successful pass	Points scored by player
Yellow card	Points scored by player
Red card	Points scored by player
Manager's team wins	Points scored by player
Draw	Points scored by player

Independent Fantasy Football

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 22 FEBRUARY

LEAGUE TABLE									
CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 22 FEBRUARY									
1	Mr C King	Seeking Victory	829						
2	Mr D Tufner	Pins Up 4	829						
3	Mr D Baker	Deja Vu	829						
4	Mr D Evans	Boothend Olds Boys	829						
5	Mr J Cox	Southville FC	829						
6	Mr B Sari	Simply The Best	828						
7	Mr D Sari	The Outchables	827						
8	Mr D Aston	Billy Boys 2nd 11	827						
9	Mr D Edmondson	Edmo United	824						
10	Mr I Bowie	Wembley Bounders	822						
11	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Boys	822						
12	Mr T Lyons	Diana's Demons	822						
13	Miss L Wild	Amerritto AFC	821						
14	Mr Archer	No Wright	821						
15	Mr S Scott	Unbeatable	818						
16	Mr D Baker	Early Birds	815						
17	Mr J McCrossan	Washed Up Army	812						
18	Mr D Baker	Dead Heat	806						
19	Mr I Brown	The Hoofers	803						
20	Mr S Scott	The Dream Team	803						
21	Mr A Choudi	Nikes 9th 11	802						
22	Mr Brady	Look Lively	800						
23	Mr D Akroyd	Jack Lads	799						
24	Mr M Pawley	Robert's Raiders	799						
25	Mr S Walker	Daniel's United	798						
26	Mr M Ewins	Mikes C Team	797						
27	Mr G Bell	Stunning Stunts	797						
28	Mr M Ewins	I've Started But Will I Finish	796						
29	Mr A Mitchell	Mikes A Team	796						
30	Mr S Aston	The Eye For It	796						
31	Mr G Ford	Billy Boys 3rd 11	796						
32	Mr J Cox	Linthorpe Rovers	793						
33	Mr J McCrossan	Retro Rovers	793						
34	Mr K Boyle	Washed Up Army	792						
35	Mr M Ward	Clogston Rovers	792						
36	Mr C Thomas	Souththorpe Extras	791						
37	Mr G Bell	The Hairys Monsters	789						
38	Mr S Man	Rebecca Rovers	788						
39	Mr R Steer	Steer 2	787						
40	Mr T Brazier	Wow For Short	787						
41	Mr P Tufner	Pins Up 2	784						

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Little makes things better

PHILIPS

Ronaldo holds the key as Inter launch revenge mission

RONALDO holds the key to tonight's Uefa Cup quarter-final first-leg tie between Internazionale and Schalke 04, the unpretentious German club who beat the Italians in last year's final.

Schalke won 4-1 on a penalty shoot-out last year after the two-leg final had finished 1-1 on aggregate. Now, though, Inter have Ronaldo - and his teammate, the Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano who scored against Schalke in Inter's second leg 1-0 win last season, believes the

Brazilian will tip the balance this time.

"We still feel bad about last year's final and this is the perfect occasion to exact revenge by eliminating them," he said. "This year, too, we have an extra weapon in Ronaldo and his pace is sure to cause problems for the German defenders who are big and strong but possibly a bit slow."

Zamorano's view is echoed by Schalke's experienced Dutch defender Johan de Kock, who agrees that Inter are stronger

than last year. "He [Ronaldo] is dangerous, fast and unpredictable. You never know what he is going to do next. The safest way to handle him is to make sure that he does not get the ball."

Inter will be without three players - the suspended sweeper Giuseppe Bergomi as well as the Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa and the defender Mauro Milanese, who are both cup-tied. The Brazilian Ze Elias is favoured to take Paulo Sousa's place in midfield alongside

Aron Winter, Diego Simeone and Francesco Moriero. In defence, Salvatore Fiesi returns in the sweeper role in place of Bergomi, while Francesco Colaninno replaces Milanese. Schalke will be without the Dutch midfielder Marco van Hoogdale, who has an Achilles injury.

The Inter coach, Gigi Simoni, has one major selection doubt, over Ronaldo's partner in attack. For much of this season, the Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff has been the first

choice alongside the Brazilian - but he is under pressure from both Zamorano and Nigeria's Nwankwo Kanu.

For Saturday's 2-0 Serie A win over Napoli, Djorkaeff was dropped in favour of Kanu - but it was Zamorano who opened the scoring with a spectacular back-heeled goal after coming on as a substitute for the Nigerian.

Auxerre tonight try to do what no club has achieved since mid-December - beat Lazio at Rome's Olympic Stadium. The

Italians have won 10 consecutive league, Uefa Cup and Italian Cup games at the venue and naturally hope to extend that in their Uefa Cup quarter-final first leg against the French side.

Lazio will be at full strength with the Croat Alen Boksic and Roberto Mancini in attack and the Czech Pavel Nedved alongside Yugoslavia's Vladimir Jugovic in midfield.

Auxerre will be weakened by the absence of their captain Franck Silvestre and the midfielder Christian Henna, both

injured. Laurent Clechelski is suspended.

Ajax face Spartak Moscow at home in the other quarter-final. The Dutch side will be without their Finnish striker and playmaker Jari Litmanen, who has been troubled by a calf strain since late autumn. There are also slight doubts over Ronald de Boer, Dean Gorre and Michael Laudrup, although all should play.

Ajax may include Benedict McCarthy. The South African is normally a reserve, but after

scoring seven goals and picking up the best player award at the African Nations' Cup he may feature tonight.

Spartak have a powerful midfield containing the internationals Andrei Tikhonov, the Russian player of the year in 1996, and the diminutive Dimitri Alenichev, who won the award overwhelmingly last year.

"Spartak play beautiful football, a bit like the way Ajax do, and we need two good days to beat them," Morten Olsen, the Ajax coach, said.

Tigana in search of a vintage year at Monaco

The coach of Manchester United's next opponents tells Dominique Baldy why he refuses to live in the past

IT SEEMS, of late, to have become the vogue to cite a footballer's willingness to stay behind after his team-mates for extra training as evidence of the superior dedication that enables the great player to stand out from the rest.

However, the last man working out on Monaco's idyllic training ground, set high among the cliffs of the Côte d'Azur, yesterday will not be coming face to face with Beckham and company at the Stade Louis II tomorrow, at least not directly.

The figure still working up a sweat as the first of the players' high-performance cars begin to negotiate the descent back towards Monte Carlo is the Monaco coach and former French midfielder Jean Tigana, the man Alex Ferguson must outwit if Manchester United are to reach the semi-finals of the European Cup.

"I train daily," Tigana said, "as I believe a coach cannot let himself go, and must exhibit the same professionalism that he expects from his players."

This certainly seems to confirm the popular perception of Tigana as a man noted on setting the highest standards, both for himself and others. As a player, his skills and fiercely competitive spirit earned him 52 caps during France's golden era in the 1980s, playing alongside Michel Platini and Alain Giresse.

Twice a World Cup semi-finalist, winning a European Championship in 1984, and five domestic titles while playing for Bordeaux and Marseilles, Tigana has transferred his success to the coaching arena, where his team are in pursuit of a unique trophy. There has even been talk that he may take over as coach of Barcelona next season, or perhaps take charge of the national side when Aimé Jacquet steps down.

Watching Tigana putting his multi-talented squad through their paces earlier, the impression was that he is respected first and loved second. With the options open to him, Tigana has to put the occasional nose out of joint, the latest being Victor Ikpeba, who discovered that being African footballer of the Year was no assurance against a spell on the bench. Ikpeba learned his lesson and scored both goals in Saturday's 2-0 French Cup win over Marseilles.

"He's a very quiet, private man," Monaco's Scottish midfielder, John Collins, said. "He knows what he wants, and if he doesn't get it, you're not in the team. It's as simple as that."

When it comes to Manchester United and Ferguson, Tigana offers little more than the respect he automatically considers due to fellow combatants also pursuing success on a number of different fronts.

"We respect Manchester United, but with no inferiority complex," Tigana says. "I was delighted with the draw because both games should be superb football occasions. I've never met Ferguson, but his ability not just to achieve success but to then be able to repeat it is a quality that I admire in anybody."

"I've had them watched, naturally, but there are so many good players there that I couldn't really pick anybody out."

None the less, there is a United old boy on whom Tigana is better qualified than most to hold forth, for he and Eric Cantona go way back, to their formative years in Marseilles.

"Yes, I've known Eric since he was a little boy. As well as being from the same district he was at school with my little brother, and we were both discovered playing for the local club, Caillols. In later years we played together at Bordeaux and Marseilles."

Had Cantona delayed his retirement by another season, the two Caillols boys might have met up again in the more rarefied atmosphere of the Champions' Cup, but Tigana feels it was disappointment of unfulfilled international ambition that was the main reason for Cantona's retirement.

"I think he would have stayed on if he was involved in the World Cup, but when that door was closed he decided enough was enough. I spoke to him after he retired and said it was a shame he stopped, but he made a life choice and you have to respect that. We've always had a good relationship, and I would never presume to try to talk him out of his decision."

Neither has Tigana been tempted to get his old friend to reveal any deficiencies in Monaco's forthcoming opponents. "We are in touch regularly, but it would never occur to me to embarrass him by asking that."



Jean Tigana: "It's true I don't live with the past. I've turned the page; what interests me is the future" Photograph: Empics

In any case, I'm the coach of Monaco, and if my own eyes can't tell me what I need to know, what am I here for?"

In a World Cup year, any meeting with Tigana readily invokes memories of the French exploits of the 1980s, an era when it seemed the hopes of Les Bleus invariably foundered on the rock of efficient Teutonic values embodied by West Germany.

That was most famously epitomised in the epic 1982 World Cup semi-final in Seville, remembered as the game in which the French refusal to shut up shop, despite leading 3-1 in extra-time, enabled the West Germans to claw their way back, and eventually triumph on penalties. Tigana believes

that analysis overstates the case. "It's true that we continued to attack. But at the time there was no option, as we had lost Genghini and Battiston during the game, and unfortunately we only had defenders on the bench. So our rhythm was hampered. It was our subsequent disorganisation after the enforced substitution that caused our defeat rather than excessive attacking."

Tigana's responses to questions about the events of the last decade are polite but unimpassioned, suggesting any ghosts from that period were exorcised long ago. "It's true, I don't live with the past. I've turned the page, and what interests me is the future. Once in a while, I meet up with

Platini, Giresse and Fernandez for a chat, but I have too much going on at the moment to get too nostalgic about those days."

"At the moment we have the Champions' Cup to worry about, and that really eats you up, emotionally and physically, and we're also aiming for the French league and cup double, which is quite exceptional."

Away from football, Tigana's eight years at Bordeaux started him down the unlikely road of a second, inevitably successful, career in the wine trade.

"For a couple of years when I retired as a player, that was all I did. But I missed football, and the pressure, and winning, so I returned to become a manager. Now I never take holidays.

Any time off from football, I go back and work on the land."

Tomorrow's game will be one of the rare occasions when United confront a side with a manager as driven as their own. And in the unlikely event that they should be tempted to underestimate Monaco, they need only recall the fate suffered last season by Newcastle United, who were dispatched from the Uefa Cup with the same ruthlessness the croupiers in Monte Carlo's casino reserve for gamblers who push their luck too far.

Were Monaco to repeat that feat this time round, the omens would appear to be good for Chateau Tigana 1998 to become a vintage year.

Harrison joins the Villa revolution

A familiar face will be on the Aston Villa bench in Madrid tonight. Phil Shaw reports.

JOHN GREGORY has been manager of Aston Villa for barely a week and already he is talking about leaving. Contemplating tonight's Uefa Cup quarter-final, first-leg match against Atletico Madrid, Brian Little's successor quipped: "If we win this one, I'll resign. Quit while I'm ahead."

Far from thinking negatively, Gregory enhanced the upbeat mood of the Villa party yesterday by confirming the appointment of Steve Harrison as first-team coach. Harrison, a self-confessed prankster and impressionist, thus returns to the club he served in the same role for seven months during Graham Taylor's reign.

Since leaving to take charge of Watford in January, 1988, Harrison has, in his own words, "done more miles than Michael Palin". After an unsatisfying sojourn at Vicarage Road, he went on to coach at Millwall and, fatefully, alongside Taylor with England.

Revelations about his lavatorial party piece cost Harrison both jobs in 1991, yet he re-emerged with Crystal Palace and was later reunited with Taylor at Wolves. More recently, he has been coaching Preston. After last week's reserve fixture between Villa and the Lancashire club, Gregory offered him the opportunity to come full circle.

Having expected to be involved in a Second Division match against Luton tonight, Harrison found himself preparing Villa to face the side who trail only Real Madrid and Barcelona in the Spanish League.

For all the seriousness of the task, he guaranteed that he would approach it in good heart. "I've always thought players worked better with a smile on their face. If you know how to make them laugh, you've got a chance of getting the best out of them."

Harrison has, however, assured Gregory that he has put his old trick behind him, as it were. "It was a long time ago and I've served my time," he said.

Gregory admitted that the rapport Harrison enjoyed at Palace with Gareth Southgate and Stan Collymore was an added attraction. The Villa manager clearly recognises Southgate's influence in the dressing room as well as sensing a chance to coax the best from the £7m enigma he inherited.

On Saturday, Collymore gave his most committed display of the season, scoring twice in the defeat of Liverpool and enabling his new boss to savour the end of a hectic week. Gregory said: "When I got home I sat down with my wife and children and we had a Chinese take-away on the kitchen table. I told

them: 'It doesn't get any better than this'."

He will be delighted to be proved wrong in the Vicente Calderon Stadium. The events of the past seven days mean that the time he would normally have spent assessing Leicester's first-round conquerors has, of necessity, been condensed.

"I'm aware of Atletico's strengths and weaknesses," Gregory said. "Peter Withe [chief scout] has watched them twice and I've had half an hour with him. We've also got videos and dossiers, but I don't want to get weighed down with all that stuff. The most important thing is that we are properly organised."

Gregory added that he was tempted to retain the team who beat Liverpool, though the experienced Steve Staunton and Mark Draper are fit to return. Atletico, who came from 2-0 down to hold Espanyol on Saturday despite being reduced to 10 men, are without the suspended Radek Bejbi as well as the broken-leg victim Juninho.

Coached by the former Luton player, Raddy Antic, they will look to Christian Vieri, their £12.5m striker from Juventus, to maintain the form that has brought him almost a goal per game.

Given the reputation of Atletico's president Jesus Gil for firing managers, few would have backed Antic to outlast Little this season. In fact, the Yugoslav is now in his third full campaign. His reputation has spread sufficiently for him to attract a respectable number of votes when Birmingham's evening paper asked readers to choose from 10 candidates for the Villa hot-seat (they did not, incidentally, include Gregory).

Gil and the Villa chairman, Doug Ellis, were reportedly dining together last night, perhaps waxing nostalgic about some of the aggregate of 43 managerial changes over which they have presided. The toast may well have been Ron Atkinson, who both men famously sacked. Gregory, meanwhile, was looking to the Atkinson era for inspiration, citing Villa's victory over Internazionale as an example to which his team should aspire.

Villa would arguably settle for the 2-1 defeat which Leicester suffered here, especially with the potentially precious away goal. Gregory conceded that it would take a brave performance to achieve an even better result, but believed that his new charges had "courage in abundance". Tonight they will need to show him that they also have class.

Atletico Madrid (probable: 4-2-3; Goals: Aguirre, Sant, Andra, Tori, Carreras, V. Gil, Paredes, Pardo, Kaka, Vieri). Aston Villa (probable: 3-4-3; Goals: Elliott, Southgate, Scimeca, Wright, Hendrie, Taylor, Gregory, Joachin, Collymore, Yorke).

Ferguson set to call on United's artisan aspect European lure for Venables

Glenn Moore reports from Monte Carlo

THOSE Manchester United players who had a fine view of the Alps as the team flew south to Nice yesterday may have considered a few footballing clichés about mountains and peaks.

The English champions' new perennial quest for the club game's highest honour begins anew here tomorrow when they meet Monaco in the European Cup quarter-final first-leg. United are confident, but wary. As Gianluca Vialli, a European champion with Juventus, noted after their weekend victory over Chelsea last night: "You can play well for eight months but one

bad performance and the Cup is gone."

United have not been scaling the peaks recently but they have been gradually rediscovering the form of autumn. Saturday showed their artisan side, an aspect which may need to be to the fore again tomorrow.

"I hope Saturday was a barometer to Wednesday night," said the manager, Alex Ferguson, yesterday. "We had to defend against clever players like Vialli and [Gianfranco] Zola. It was a guide to what we will face from Monaco."

United's only concern - with the injured Ryan Giggs definitely out - is Gary Pallister, who lasted 27 minutes at Stan-

ford Bridge before departing with a back injury. "He had treatment on Sunday and again this morning," said Ferguson. "But we will not be taking any risks." With Monaco possessing exceptional pace in attack, notably in Thierry Henry and Victor Ikpeba, Ferguson is likely to turn instead to Henning Berg.

Ikpeba scored twice in extra-time as Monaco, third in the French league, beat Marseilles 2-0 in the cup at the weekend. Yet that competition is no more of a priority to Jean Tigana, the Monaco coach, than the English one was to Ferguson. David Trezeguet, the 20-year-old striking prospect who made his France debut in January,

defender Franck Dumas and Scotland's John Collins were rested and the Algerian midfielder Ali Benarbia and Henry put on the bench. All are expected to be fit tomorrow.

United's supporters began arriving yesterday, accompanied by one of the Football Association's security officials. The club have sold 2,200 tickets and a similar number of ticketless fans are expected to travel. Trouble, apart from isolated drink-fuelled idiosyncrasy, is not expected, partly through the high drink prices, and partly because there is no one here to fight.

Monaco's average gate is about 5,000 and their club shop

is smaller than the burger vans on Sir Matt Busby Way. If it were not for the regal Grimaldi family's subsidy the club would be little bigger than Enley. As it is, they are meeting United on equal terms.

United are staying across the border near Nice but, when they cross into the principality for training at the Stade Louis II tonight, they should feel at home. This is a millionaire's playground after all.

● The Manchester-based bookmaker Fred Done is paying out now to punters who backed United to win the Premiership, irrespective of who wins the title. Within hours, £15,000 had been snapped up.

THE SPECTRE of the Nationwide League may be hanging over Crystal Palace's attempt to secure the services of Terry Venables but, even if the Premiership's bottom club are relegated, they may still be able to dangle the lure of European football.

Crystal Palace have become the first English team to express a desire to compete in the much-maligned Intertoto Cup for three years and Uefa yesterday confirmed that, although non-Premiership clubs would not "normally" be allowed to enter, Palace's case would be given special consideration by the cup's committee. So desperate is Uefa to have English,

Italian and Spanish participation in the competition that Palace would almost certainly get the nod.

Venables, who yesterday asked for a week to think over prospective chairman Mark Goldberg's offer of a lucrative five-year contract, could thus spend the weekend of 18/19 July, while most teams are on the beach, overseeing Palace's European debut.

Venables spent two hours with Goldberg yesterday and was offered bonuses and share options. His delay in making a decision may be a ploy to flush out other possibilities, but he may also be wondering how he will settle into Goldberg's pref-

erence for him to work under a director of football appointed by Juventus, who will have an advisory role at the club. Where this leaves Steve Coppell, the current manager, is anybody's guess.

So, too, is Palace's Intertoto team. Uefa has stipulated that, while allowing for World Cup commitments, it must be akin to "a normal team".

In 1995, when Wimbledon, Tottenham and Sheffield Wednesday were coerced into competing, they fielded teams largely made up of reserves and borrowed players, and played "home" games at other venues.

Glenn Moore

Fourth Test: Captain's failure sparks early collapse as deadly Ambrose leads West Indies pace attack in pursuit of quick victory

England's failings exposed again

Azhar makes all the right moves

Derek Pringle
reports from Georgetown

West Indies 352 & 197
England 170 & 90-6

MICHAEL ATHERTON will be feeling the pressure after another failure with the bat has virtually consigned his team to defeat in this Fourth Test. As England captain, Atherton has seen the best and worst of his team over the last four days. But if their performance has alternated between the abject and the stoic, the England captain's has remained in the doldrums, and he has now gone 15 Test innings without a half-century.

The West Indies is not a place for a captain to be out of form with the bat, especially when rumours of a certain fast bowler's decline seem to be about as reliable as the local witchdoctor's rain dance, which, after five months of drought, has not been something to put your house on.

There is no doubt in the past that the West Indies fast bowlers have deliberately targeted the opposition's captain. This time, however, with Atherton out of sorts, and the pitches on the fringes of respectability, they have not had to resort to the intimidation of old.

Instead they have exploited Atherton's tendency to fall across his stumps - something he felt he had cured after his winter tuition with Graham Gooch - and his dismissal, in the second over after lunch was a case in point.

Mind you, the ball from Curtly Ambrose, which cut back sharply and kept fractionally low, would have tested anyone, irrespective of form, and Atherton is perhaps unfortunate in that there are few hiding places when

Ambrose and Courtney Walsh have a new ball in their hands.

In fact, the lbw was a replica of the one that got him at Trinidad four years ago when England collapsed in a heap to 46 all out. If there is a side that could prove that sporting history is cyclical and not linear, it is England.

Needing to score 380 runs, the third highest score in history to win a Test match batting last, or to bat out 153 overs, 48 more than their longest innings of the series, the task facing England was about as difficult as an asthmatic trying to climb Mt Everest without oxygen. Indeed, on this all but decomposed pitch, some would say it was probably futile and when Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, and Graham Thorpe went in the space of 21 balls to leave England reeling on 28 for 4, memories of that fateful day in Port-of-Spain would momentarily, at least, have come flooding back.

Stewart, continuing his marvellous form with a pair of boundaries off Ambrose, was yet another victim of the lbw mania sweeping this match. Missing a leg-side clip off Walsh, to which only the bowler appealed with any venom, Stewart was sent on his way by Steve Bucknor, a decision that was neither plumb nor farcical, but in that grey area in which the batsman tends to benefit.

Two balls later, there was no doubt at all as Hussain, caught between whether to duck or hook, fended the perfect throat ball from Walsh to short leg. Since his fine innings in the first of the two Trinidad Tests, Hussain has not featured and his reputation as an all or nothing man has begun to tilt more towards the latter with this, his second duck of the series.

After Thorpe went, failing to control a flick off his hips and giving a catch to Dinanath Ramnarine at leg-gully, a period of calm ensued, helped in part by some careless catching and fielding from the home side. They twice dropped Mark Butcher while in single figures.

Mark Ramprakash, apart from a rush of blood involving a risky second run, looked as sound as he had done in the first innings, but Butcher's luck ran out in the first over after tea. After a testing few balls from Carl Hooper, bowling into a massive area of rough, the left-hander was fooled by an arm ball. More importantly, and presumably by some kind of optical illusion, it also appeared to persuade umpire Bucknor that it would have hit leg stump. When Ramprakash went, caught behind off Walsh, England were 90 for 6 and staring defeat inside four days.

Earlier, when play started, the portents had not been quite so gloomy. But if England bowlers were buoyant after their comeback on the third day, they approached the fourth as if they were staring at victory, not defeat. Like Lara the previous day, Atherton was obtuse in his choice of bowlers, opening with Croft and Tufnell, a tactic he stuck to for nine overs before calling on an obviously spent Fraser.

As Tufnell himself could have told his captain, there is nothing a No 11 likes better when required to bat than to face some gentle spin. Instead of putting Headley on and getting him to stick one up Ramnarine's nose, as Ambrose had done to Tufnell, he allowed the tallender to play himself in and help Bishop, who ended unbeaten on 44, to extend the West Indies lead to 379.

The net result, aided by some appalling catching - four chances of varying difficulty were put down - was a last-wicket partnership of 70 runs, a record for the West Indies against England. The previous best was an unbroken stand of 67, between Michael Holding and Colin Croft, both present here as commentators.

Theoretically, the ease with which Bishop and Ramnarine conducted their business ought to have been a source of comfort to England's batsmen. The trouble is when Ambrose and Walsh are making in-roads on the disintegrating pitch, theories tend to become rapidly evaluated - the thoughts of Mick Jagger, here no doubt to check the primary interface of his cricket website, every bit as pertinent on the subject as the views of Geoffrey Boycott.



Mike Atherton walks off with just one run to his name after being tapped lbw by Curtly Ambrose. Photograph: Allsport

Atherton pays for lacking a plan

By Henry Blofeld

THERE is nothing more irritating and frustrating in cricket than having to field through a long last-wicket partnership. England came out on the fourth morning thinking the job was done and all they had to do was to go through the motions until the last West Indian wicket fell.

After their stirring performance in the field on Sunday, it was perhaps difficult to blame them for this. But Michael Atherton should have asked himself before the start what the two Trinidadians would like to do. They most certainly would not have said two spinners for Trinidadians are reared on a staple diet of spin. Dinanath Ramnarine, in his first Test,

would not have fancied Dean Headley's yockers and bouncers.

In Ian Bishop, the West Indies have a No 8 who has two first-class hundreds to his name and is the best of the lower order batsmen on either side. His debutant partner, Ramnarine, showed that he is no mug either, especially against spin.

When the wicket did not fall in the first few overs, England managed to panic and to let their heads sink on to their chests at the same time. Atherton ran out of ideas, runs came at an alarming rate and the fielding was dreadful, with four chances being missed.

England lived from one ball to the next without any semblance of a plan. When Atherton decided that spin was not the

answer - Bishop had forcibly reminded him of this by sweeping Robert Croft from two fours and on-driving Phil Tufnell out of the ground for six - he turned to Angus Fraser and not Headley. His instinct was to rely on the golden arm of Fraser and not on the superior pace of Headley. When he eventually brought Headley on instead of Fraser, it was only for two overs, although he still managed to make life uncomfortable for Ramnarine.

For no good reason, he went back to spin and the two West Indians pushed the ball around as they wished. It was not until Headley was recalled that Ramnarine succumbed. By then the last pair had put on a record 70 and the West Indies had regained all the psychological advantage.

Fifa asks France for tickets

Football

SEPP BLATTER, the general secretary of the game's world governing body, Fifa, announced yesterday that he was hoping extra tickets - although he did not say how many - would be available to fans outside France for the World Cup finals.

"We have asked France for the remaining tickets that were reserved for the retail market in France to be returned to Fifa," he said. "That will allow the federations of the countries in the finals to get more tickets."

A CFO spokesman said yesterday a meeting between the French organisers and EU officials was scheduled for Thursday in Brussels, but would not elaborate on the agenda.

Last week, English and Scottish officials complained about the ticket situation, and they were joined by the Netherlands and Germany, but hopes then of a change in policy appeared slim.

Blatter played down reports that the EU competition commissioner, Karel van Miert, was threatening fines because of the unfair allocation of tickets. "This remark is not to be taken seriously. The distribution of the tickets has been blessed by the EU. Of course, it is wonderful that football is so popular."

The Scottish Football Association yesterday agreed to of-

fer Craig Brown a new four-year contract as the national team manager. His current deal expires after the World Cup.

The SFA will now hold talks with Brown to finalise the details of a contract he is expected to sign before World Cup preparations begin later this month with a friendly against Denmark.

Brian Little, who resigned as manager of Aston Villa last week, will be offered a quick return to management by the millionaire trying to buy Burnley. He is the target for New York-based financier Ray Ingleby, who has bid £5m for a controlling interest in the club. The board has turned down his offer, but Ingleby has now asked individual shareholders to deal with him directly.

Tigana's fine year, page 26

BOURDA SCOREBOARD

Fourth day, West Indies won toss

WEST INDIES - First Innings 352 (S Chanderpaul 118, B C Lara 93, ENGLAND - First Innings 170 (M R Ramprakash 64 no).

WEST INDIES - Second Innings (Overnight: 127 for 9)

I R Bishop not out 44
D Ramnarine c Russell b Headley 16
Extras (bt 10, lb 10) 20
Total (72 overs) 197

Fall: 1-4, 2-32, 3-32, 4-75, 5-93, 6-123, 7-123, 8-127, 9-127

Bowling: Fraser 11-2-24-1; Headley 13-5-37-3; Croft 22-9-50-3; Tufnell 24-5-72-1; Ramprakash 2-1-2-1

ENGLAND - Second Innings

M A Atherton lbw b Ambrose 1
A J Stewart lbw b Walsh 12
M A Butcher lbw b Hooper 7
N Hussain c Adams b Walsh 0
G P Thorpe c Ramnarine b Ambrose 3
M R Ramprakash c D Williams b Walsh 34
P R C Russell not out 8
Extras (lb 10, lb 10) 20
Total (for 6, 43 overs) 90

Fall: 1-6, 2-22, 3-22, 4-38, 5-56, 6-90

To bat: R D B Croft, D W Headley, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell

Umpires: S A Bucknor and O B Hay. TV replay umpire: P Montfort. Match referee: B N Jordan.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3548, Tuesday 3 March By Asford

Monday's Solution

1 Across: I reported humour to head one observes (10)
2 Across: Women are expecting to have help from them (8)
3 Across: Those around hospital department will accept how old we are (9)
4 Across: I feel glad is disastrous (5)
5 Across: Walk awkwardly, lacking right (4)
6 Across: Join friend after Malaga outing (10)
7 Across: Chart's wrong about Arabia and produces complaint (7)
8 Across: Annual agreement on railway (6)
9 Across: Milk producer with money backing - thousands (6)
10 Across: One to get things moving in the main (7)

11 Down: I reported humour to head one observes (10)
12 Down: War Lord returned blood products (4)
13 Down: Change finish to accommodate writer (5)
14 Down: I will order need for change after having bad prognosis (3-6)
15 Down: At college I apply punishment which is to make things less severe (8)
16 Down: After a time uses up stuff put on hair (6)
17 Down: See very dark colour as a thing of beauty (8)
18 Down: Spectacular study? (9)
19 Down: Pest of odious lugubriousness (4)
20 Down: Fish with a friend without catches (7)

21 Down: Swing with Georgia twice in Australian place (5,5)
22 Down: UK soccer team affected by disease in Virginia (5)
23 Down: Turf over animal's hair is very wet (6)
24 Down: Heat of battle is a fable not unknown (6)
25 Down: N American marmot to follow to plain (7,3)
26 Down: Perhaps send things to be tied up (5,4)
27 Down: Spend time right in horsey seat to do this? (3)
28 Down: Mark's first one of canine experts (7)
29 Down: Lets us down in struggle (6)
30 Down: Note judge discharge burden (6)
31 Down: Upright sort of tree found round Cuba (5)
32 Down: Order graduate to send up bullets (4)

- 1 Say "I'm so fabulous", showing this? (6)
2 Women are expecting to have help from them (8)
3 Those around hospital department will accept how old we are (9)
4 I feel glad is disastrous (5)
5 Walk awkwardly, lacking right (4)
6 Join friend after Malaga outing (10)
7 Chart's wrong about Arabia and produces complaint (7)
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9 Milk producer with money backing - thousands (6)
10 One to get things moving in the main (7)

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